

NQF's Strategic Direction 2016-2019



NATIONAL
QUALITY FORUM

Payment and delivery reform strategies intended to improve quality and limit spending are causing rapid and profound changes in the U.S. healthcare system. The success of these strategies depends upon good quality measurement, now widely viewed as central to the transformation of healthcare.

The 2016-2019 NQF Strategic Plan answers an unmet need for NQF to lead, prioritize, and collaborate to drive measurement that can result in better, safer, and more affordable healthcare for patients, providers, and payers. At the same time, the plan's initiatives aim to reduce the redundancy and cost of measurement.

HOW IS NQF PLANNING TO MEET THESE CHALLENGES?

The plan charts a new course for NQF that diversifies its role from the current reactive state of evaluating submitted measures to a future, proactive state of:

- **Accelerating development of needed measures**
- **Identifying priority measures**
- **Reducing, selecting, and endorsing measures**
- **Driving more effective implementation of priority measures, and**
- **Better understanding what works and what doesn't in measurement.**

A key focus will be on filling important measure gaps through the newly launched Measure Incubator. The Incubator matches stakeholders with measure concepts to the measure development experts, data resources, and funding necessary to speed measure development. While NQF does not itself develop measures, by serving in this convening role, NQF can accelerate the development of needed measures and help to address persistent measurement deficits, such as measures that capture the voice of the patient.

The plan also calls on NQF to identify the most important measures to improve U.S. healthcare. By identifying priority measures for the nation as a whole as well as for specific settings or populations, NQF can focus the quality community on specific metrics needed to improve the quality, safety, and affordability of care. This prioritization work holds promise to yield fewer, more meaningful measures overall.

NQF's 430+ member organizations are essential to achieving the goals of this three-year plan. NQF's members are the nation's essential forum for developing and implementing focused solutions to improve U.S. healthcare and healthcare outcomes.

HOW WILL NQF DEFINE SUCCESS?

When the plan is fully implemented, healthcare providers, patients and payers will use and rely upon high-value, comparable measures that enhance the quality, safety, and affordability of care.

This plan is a collaborative effort championed and led by the NQF Board of Directors. It reflects the guidance and input from leaders and stakeholders from across the spectrum of healthcare. Full implementation of the NQF Strategic Plan began in July 2016.



NQF Mission

The National Quality Forum's mission is to lead national collaboration to improve health and healthcare quality through measurement.

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