

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NCQA CONSORTIUM AWARDED \$7.7 MILLION TO CREATE
PEDIATRIC QUALITY MEASURES

Grant will fund major gains in children's health care measurement

WASHINGTON, DC — The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) together with its research partners received a \$7.7 million grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) to develop child health care quality measures. Authorization for the funding comes from the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA), which extended and expanded coverage for low-income children. NCQA leads a consortium called the National Collaborative for Innovation in Quality Measurement (NCINQ). NCINQ is one of seven Centers of Excellence funded under the Pediatric Quality Measures Program which is administered by AHRQ and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The four-year grant allows NCINQ to advance pediatric care evaluation by developing measures to add to the core set of CHIPRA measures. Development efforts will focus on improving and strengthening the initial core child health care quality measures established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as well as developing new and emerging quality measures in this important area.

"This project creates a great opportunity to improve children's health care," said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane. "This is an exciting opportunity to work with such strong and committed partners."

"The grant is the first significant federal funding to develop measures of this kind," adds Sarah Hudson Scholle, NCQA's Vice President of Research and Analysis. "This unprecedented opportunity allowed us to pull together a national team representing the best work in quality measurement. This is a huge leap forward for pediatric measurement."

NCQA's partners in the NCINQ consortium are:

- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), representing more than 60,000 pediatricians
- The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI), a leading national center for developing and disseminating valid, patient-centered data on health and health care quality for children, youth and families
- Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH), one of the largest pediatric hospitals in the country
- The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health, which provides research, education, and technical assistance to support quality improvements in patient-centered care for adolescents
- Rutgers University, which houses research programs focused on use, quality, and outcomes of therapeutic interventions in large, usual-care populations of publicly and privately insured individuals funded by the National Institutes of Health, AHRQ, the Food and Drug Administration, state agencies, foundations, and other sources
- The State of New York, which serves more than 2 million children in Medicaid and CHIP programs and provides mental health care to 65,000 children through more than 357 licensed clinics

The NCINQ project will work with clinical settings serving disadvantaged children including Children's Health Fund, the New York City Health Department's Primary Care Information Project, Hudson River

HealthCare, eight State Medicaid/CHIPs (Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, New York, Oregon and West Virginia) and CHIPRA quality demonstration grantees in Florida and Illinois. To ensure youth and family involvement in the measure development process, NCINQ will include representatives from Family and Youth Voices, Mental Health America, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health and the National Partnership for Women & Families.

Sixteen of the 24 initial core quality measures identified for public reporting under CHIPRA's quality program are NCQA measures. They include:

- Adolescent Well-Care Visits
- Ambulatory Care: Emergency Department Visits
- Appropriate Testing for Children With Pharyngitis
- Childhood Immunization Status
- Children and Adolescents' Access to Primary Care Practitioners
- Chlamydia Screening
- Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) Health Plan Survey 4.0H, Child Version
- Developmental Screening in the First Three Years of Life (with CAHMI)
- Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication
- Follow-Up After Hospitalization for Mental Illness
- Frequency of Ongoing Prenatal Care
- Immunizations for Adolescents
- Prenatal and Postpartum Care: Timeliness of Prenatal Care
- Weight Assessment and Counseling for Nutrition and Physical Activity for Children and Adolescents: Body Mass Index Assessment for Children/Adolescents
- Well-Child Visits in the First 15 Months of Life
- Well-Child Visits in the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Years of Life

"If you cannot measure it, you cannot improve it," said National Partnership for Women & Families President Debra L. Ness. "This project is our opportunity to do foundational work on improving children's health care."

About the National Collaborative for Innovation in Quality Measurement

The National Collaborative for Innovation in Quality Measurement is a consortium of leaders and organizations committed to advancing pediatric measurement as part of the AHRQ Pediatric Quality Measures Program. The team brings together existing multi-state and multi-stakeholder collaborative and national organizations with a focus on pediatric care quality. Collaborating organizations and leaders include the National Committee for Quality Assurance, Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH), the State of New York, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Rutgers University, the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative (CAHMI), the National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health and a broad network of major health plans, provider groups, families, and consumers.

About the National Committee for Quality Assurance

NCQA is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations and recognizes physicians in key clinical areas. NCQA's Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS[®]) is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA is committed to providing health care quality information through the Web, media and data licensing agreements to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices.