


PCPI

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

**PHYSICIAN CONSORTIUM
FOR PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT[®]**

Convened by the American Medical Association



PCPI MEASURES ARE
BASED ON WIDELY-
ACCEPTED CLINICAL
EVIDENCE AND FOCUS
ON KNOWN GAPS
OR UNEXPLAINED
VARIATION IN CARE.

It's time to take a giant step forward

After more than a decade of steady growth, the American Medical Association (AMA)-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® (PCPI) has evolved to become one of the nation's preeminent physician-led initiatives dedicated to improving patient health and safety.

And yet many physicians and other health care providers neither know our name, nor our work. That's about to change.

The PCPI is seeking new partners to collaborate with in developing and testing performance measures and improvement strategies. We're also taking a more active role in informing the health care community about the composition and availability of PCPI measures, which are developed by physicians for physicians' and other health care professionals' use in clinical practice.

Having worked quietly behind the scenes building consensus and helping establish the theoretical framework that supports the study and advancement of performance improvement, the PCPI is stepping up its presence and seeking new members to help improve the quality of the nation's health care.

Join us in this important effort.

Leading the nation in measures that matter

Today the PCPI's diverse membership, which numbers more than 170 strong, includes an array of national medical specialty societies, state medical societies, the American Board of Medical Specialties and member boards, Council of Medical Specialty Societies, health care professional organizations, federal agencies, individual members and other groups interested in designing and applying evidence-based solutions.

The breadth of knowledge, energy and ideas that PCPI members provide infuses every aspect of the consortium's work, both balancing and driving forward our collective efforts in:

- Identifying and developing evidence-based performance measures and implementation vehicles including health information technology
- Promoting the implementation of effective and relevant performance improvement activities
- Advancing the science of performance measurement and improvement

With the goal of modernizing health care to improve patient outcomes, the PCPI convenes its members in person at least twice a year to discuss progress, share ideas and solicit guidance on the PCPI's work.

PCPI MEASURE SETS—THE NUMBERS ARE GROWING

▶ Acute Otitis Externa/Otitis Media with Effusion	▶ Hypertension
▶ Anesthesiology and Critical Care	▶ Major Depressive Disorder—Adult
▶ Asthma	▶ Major Depressive Disorder—Child and Adolescent
▶ Atrial Fibrillation and Atrial Flutter	▶ Melanoma
▶ Care Transitions	▶ Nuclear Medicine
▶ Chronic Kidney Disease	▶ Obstructive Sleep Apnea
▶ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	▶ Oncology
▶ Chronic Stable Coronary Artery Disease	▶ Osteoarthritis
▶ Chronic Wound Care	▶ Osteoporosis
▶ Community-acquired Bacterial Pneumonia	▶ Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy
▶ Diabetes	▶ Palliative Care
▶ Emergency Medicine	▶ Pathology
▶ Endoscopy and Polyp Surveillance	▶ Pediatric Acute Gastroenteritis
▶ End Stage Renal Disease—Adult	▶ Perioperative Care
▶ End Stage Renal Disease—Pediatric	▶ Prenatal Testing
▶ Eye Care	▶ Preventive Care and Screening
▶ Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease	▶ Prostate Cancer
▶ Geriatrics	▶ Radiology
▶ Heart Failure	▶ Rheumatoid Arthritis
▶ Hematology	▶ Stroke and Stroke Rehabilitation
▶ Hepatitis C	▶ Substance Use Disorders
▶ HIV/AIDS	

PCPI: CYCLE OF ACTIVITY



PCPI measures: A cycle of continuous activity

The “PCPI: Cycle of Activity” diagram shows how various activities interact to support measure development, as well as broader quality improvement efforts. Over the past few years, the PCPI has enhanced its measure development process to include quantitative information about the gap between current and evidence-based practices. Specification, testing, quality improvement and measure implementation concepts are now incorporated at the front end of new measure development and maintenance projects. The PCPI will continue to expand and refine the use of this model to continuously improve the scope, relevance and application of our work.

Working together to gather broad input and support

Our measurement work groups represent the collaborative core of the PCPI's efforts. Composed of nationally recognized clinical and technical experts, and patient and payer representatives, our work groups use comprehensive processes and criteria to ensure PCPI measures meet the highest standards possible. Draft measures and specifications are vetted through public comment, and reviewed and approved by the PCPI voting membership. Measures are then field tested in real-world situations. Once complete, PCPI measures are available to physicians, health care organizations, and government and private payers, free of charge, for use in benchmarking and tracking improvement and payment initiatives, assessing physician performance and improving consumer decision making.



Next generation measures—they're already here

While making sure our existing measures remain relevant and up to date, the PCPI focuses a significant portion of its current efforts on emerging needs and opportunities. By continually refining existing measures, and identifying and developing new ones, the PCPI is at the forefront of developing “next generation” performance measures that are:

- Used by government and private payers, as well as certification and licensure programs
- Focused on outcomes and processes to determine if the desired goal was achieved
- Grouped into composites that create a single measurable score out of multiple related measures
- Tested for reliability, feasibility and usability, and ready for use in quality improvement efforts

BREAKING NEW GROUND—HEALTH IT

The PCPI was among the first to work with information technology (IT) vendors and practice sites with electronic health record (EHR) systems to develop and test the incorporation of performance measures into EHR systems. Participating in “incubator group” testing of this type is just one part of a PCPI multilevel model that includes:

- ▶ Selection of measures (from existing or new measures sets)
- ▶ Development of Level I (human readable) and Level II (machine readable) e-specifications
- ▶ Testing of specifications with dummy data sets and EHR system vendors
- ▶ Testing of specifications with real-world EHR systems

Over time, these efforts will not only support the quality measurement requirements found in Medicare and the Medicare Electronic Health Record Incentive Program, they will streamline data collection, support efficient performance reporting, and afford physicians access to quality of care and decision-support information at the point of care.

Putting performance measures to the test

Testing performance measures is a vital step in the measure development and implementation process. That's why the PCPI works diligently with its members, researchers, practicing physicians and other providers to test the application of its diverse measures in actual workplace situations. Only by assessing the use of a measure in practice can we learn whether the measure is feasible and reliable, and if it facilitates better patient outcomes.

Advancing information to support better care

In 2010 the Affordable Care Act became law. This law is intended to support improvement in the health care system. To ensure critical information is available, robust performance measures will be used in electronic health records and new payment models, as well as made available to the public. The PCPI is leading the way in the development and integration of these new performance measures. Today, PCPI-developed measures represent the *majority* of measures in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Physician Quality Reporting System, which helps assure performance is evaluated and rewarded with measures developed by physicians and other health care professionals.

Working with and learning from others

By identifying improvement collaboratives throughout the country, the PCPI is learning from many successful examples. Learning from these projects further expands the PCPI's understanding of the practical implications of using measurement information as a tool for transforming patient care.

The PCPI also supports the Consumer/Purchaser Panel, a multi-stakeholder group that provides input into PCPI development priorities. From this dialog, the PCPI has gained a better understanding of the information needs of consumers and those who buy health care.

Join the PCPI today

From individual providers to group practices and specialty and state societies, from quality organizations to commercial EHR vendors and other invested organizations, all share the common goal of finding appropriate ways to improve our nation's health care system. By working together to share and test ideas, we can ensure that patients, consumers, health care purchasers, physicians and other providers will have the tools needed to achieve the highest quality of care possible. We encourage you to join the PCPI today.

PCPI

CONTACT US

Performance Improvement
American Medical Association
515 N. State St.
Chicago, IL 60654
(800) 621-8335
consortium@ama-assn.org

