

Overview

A leader in health care quality measurement and performance improvement, the American Medical Association (AMA)-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement[®] (PCPITM) is a national, physician-led program dedicated to improving patient health and safety by:

- Identifying and developing evidence-based clinical performance measures and measurement resources that enhance the quality of patient care and foster accountability
- Promoting the implementation of effective and relevant clinical performance improvement activities
- Advancing the science of clinical performance measurement and improvement

Convened more than a decade ago, the ongoing mission of the PCPI is to align patient-centered care, performance measurement and quality improvement. We're committed to playing a leadership role in the national effort to improve health care, and to supporting physicians and other health care professionals as they navigate the changing health care environment.

Be part of the PCPI

Now numbering more than 170 strong, our member organizations and individuals come from across the country and represent a wide spectrum of interests. As the heart and soul of the PCPI's efforts, our members dedicate their time, clinical expertise, and resources to helping shape and improve performance measurement and patient-centered care.

PCPI national relevance

The following are a few of the achievements that demonstrate the PCPI's growing influence.

- Nationally recognized for measure development, specification and testing of measures, and enabling use of measures in electronic health records (EHRs)
- More than 57 percent of measures in Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Physician Quality Reporting System are PCPI measures

- Forty-five percent of measures in the CMS EHR Incentive Program Stage 1 are PCPI measures

Quality improvement: We're making it happen

PCPI members and professional staff contribute clinical expertise to national quality improvement efforts such as:

- National Quality Forum
- National Priorities Partnership
- Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)

In addition, PCPI members participate on work groups, serve on committees, attend membership meetings, comment and vote on performance measures, and network with others passionate about improving the quality and efficiency of health care.

Measure development

Since its inception the PCPI has focused on developing evidence-based performance measures that are clinically meaningful, meet the current and future needs of the PCPI membership, and are used in national accountability and quality improvement programs.

The PCPI's nationally recognized measure development resources include a measure testing protocol, a position statement on the evidence base required for measure development, a composite measure framework, specification and categorization of measure exceptions, and an outcomes measures framework.

Today the PCPI portfolio includes measures in more than 46 clinical areas with over 280 individual measures.

Who is using performance measures and why?

Performance measures are used across the continuum of health care and for a variety of reasons. For example:

- **Physicians** for internal quality improvement, certification and government and private payer requirements

- **Payers** including CMS and private payers' network development and incentive programs
- **Medical boards** are beginning to use measures in maintenance of certification programs
- **Medical specialty societies** now using measures in continuing medical education programs and patient registries

Enhancements and new initiatives

As the health care environment changes the PCPI has responded by adding new areas of focus to the measure development process, including:

- Clinical and patient-reported outcomes
- Bundled and composite measures
- Appropriate use/overuse measures
- Measures that can be applied at the team, organization and health system level
- Specifications and testing for electronic health record systems

Additionally, the PCPI is bringing new initiatives forward to enhance its quality-improvement resources, tools and services and to facilitate the development of the National Quality Registry Network.

Measure development process

The PCPI balances its work efforts among new measure development, maintenance and enhancement, specifications, measure testing and implementation.

- New measure topics are reviewed and selected against criteria including addressing gaps and unexplained variations in care, quality improvement, patient safety, appropriateness of care, and key priorities of the current health care environment.
- The multiple step process for measure development begins with a review of evidence and selection of a work group, and continues through public comment and member voting.
- Specifications and eMeasures are developed for

implementation into an EHR. The PCPI eSpecification includes *human readable* format and the PCPI eMeasures translates the eSpecifications into a computer readable format.

- The PCPI tests many of its performance measures for feasibility, reliability, validity and unintended consequences via PCPI-convened testing networks.

Quality Improvement Advisory Panel

The PCPI Executive Committee established the Quality Improvement Advisory Panel in 2011 to provide guidance on how the PCPI can establish synergistic collaboration to advance quality improvement among physicians and other health care professionals

National Quality Registry Network

In 2011 the PCPI convened a national summit that brought together key stakeholders from a broad cross section of the U.S. health care delivery system to collectively envision the development of the National Quality Registry Network (NQRN) to advance health care improvement.

There was a great deal of interest in the concept of the NQRN, and the benefits it may provide through standardization, data sharing and the facilitation of informed patient and clinician decision-making.

As envisioned the NQRN may be a voluntary, coordinating network of individual patient registry stewards and other health care stakeholders that will (1) amplify the impact of individual registries through coordination and shared services, and (2) accelerate the development of new registries in high-priority areas to enable health system transformation.

Join the PCPI—get involved today

We 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.

Contact the PCPI

For more information email consortium@ama-assn.org or call the PCPI at (800) 621-8335 for assistance. [PCPI applications](#) are also available online.