

National Quality Forum (NQF)*

Founded in 1999, The National Quality Forum (NQF) is a US-based, not-for-profit, non-partisan, membership-based organization that promotes patient protection and healthcare quality through measurement and public reporting. Members consist of health-care organizations including hospitals, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, health professionals, community/public health organizations, and consumer and purchaser groups, among others. As of January 2016, over 430 organizations were members of the NQF.

The NQF's primary activity is the endorsement of health care 'consensus standards' including performance measures, best practices, and frameworks. NQF has historically played a role in the creation of national quality strategies, convening consensus bodies to propose recommendations of measures for federal programs through the [Measures Application Partnership](#) (see box to the right).

Measures are reviewed and endorsed through a formal procedure called the Consensus Development Process (CDP). The CDP consists of [6 steps](#) which include selection of a standing committee, in-depth measure review using [standardized criteria](#), public comment period, member voting and a final review and decision by the NQF Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) and NQF Board of Directors. As of December 2019, over 1,000 measures were listed as 'currently endorsed' by the NQF, of which 192 directly relate to the health of children and mothers.

Measure Application Partnership (MAP)

MAP is a multi-stakeholder partnership that guides the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the selection of performance measures for federal health programs such as the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid. During the 2015/16 pre-rulemaking review cycle, MAP considered 131 unique measures for potential use across 16 different federal health programs. MAP uses a three-step process to analyze and select measures. They (1) develop program-specific measure set frameworks, (2) evaluate measures under consideration for what they would add to the program measure sets, and (3) identify and prioritize gaps for programs and settings.

National Quality Forum (NQF)

Developer(s)	Organizations that submit measures for review are called 'Measure Stewards' . They are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the measures over time.
Funder(s)	About one third of NQF funding comes from member dues. Remaining funding is sourced through both public and private channels such as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
Purpose(s)	The NQF leads national collaborations to improve health and healthcare quality through measurement. The endorsement of measures is NQF's primary activity.
Target Populations	NQF endorses a wide range of measures covering health topics relevant to all individuals.
Data Sources	Data sources vary by measure.
Technical Measure Descriptions	The NQF Quality Positioning System (NQF-QPS) hosts a compendium of all NQF endorsed (and previously endorsed) measures. Technical specifications are available for each measure, and links to data and additional information are provided when available.
Number of Measures	In December 2019, over 1,000 measures were endorsed by the NQF. Of these, 193 directly relate to the health of children and mothers.
Topics of Measurement	Assessment of health conditions, appropriate treatment, follow up care, hospital admission rates, insurance coverage, receipt of preventative care, and environmental conditions (such as exposure to smoke, safe communities), among others.
Reporting Requirements	Many NQF endorsed measures are used to meet reporting requirements by public and private programs.
Recommended or Required Stratification	NQF endorsed measures used for program reporting may require or recommend various stratifications. All possible stratifications depend on the individual measures and their corresponding data sources.
Link to Additional Info	Field Guide to NQF Resources How to become a member The ABCs of Measurement

[Browse and Search the Measures](#)

*The content of this one-pager has not been reviewed by the measure developer, due to upcoming changes to measure set

Maternal and Child Health – Measurement Research Network | Last Updated: July 7, 2020

The MCH-MRN is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant No. UA6MC30375.