National Quality Strategy

In 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched the **National Quality Strategy (NQS)**, a cross-cutting initiative to advance the agency's goal of ensuring the highest quality care and best health outcomes for all individuals.

The CMS NQS aims to improve health care quality for individuals across the lifespan and the continuum of care, promoting a more equitable, safer, and outcome-driven health care system.

Quality is essential to value—the highest quality care at the most affordable cost. By emphasizing quality across CMS programs, the agency's NQS advances resilient, high-value care for all.

Mission:

To achieve optimal health and well-being for all individuals.

Vision:

CMS, a trusted partner, is shaping a resilient, high-value American health care system that delivers high-quality, safe, and equitable care for all.

CMS NQS Goals

The CMS NQS has four priority areas, each with two goals. The eight goals are interconnected and provide a unified vision for improving the quality of care for the over 160 million individuals with Traditional Medicare, Medicare Advantage, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Marketplace coverage.

Equity
Advance health equity and whole-person care

Engagement
Engage individuals and communities to become partners in their care

Safety
Achieve zero preventable harm

Resiliency
Enable a responsive and resilient health care system to improve quality

Equity and Engagement

Outcomes and Alignment

Safety and Resiliency

Interoperability and Scientific Advancement

CMS NATIONAL QUALITY STRATEGY

Outcomes
Improve quality and health outcomes across the care journey

Alignment
Align and coordinate across programs and care settings

Interoperability
Accelerate and support the transition to a digital and data-driven health care system

Scientific Advancement
Transform health care using science, analytics, and technology

Implementing the CMS NQS

Since launching the CMS NQS, CMS has worked to advance the strategy's goals through collaboration across the agency and with other partners. To hear CMS leaders talk about actions to date and successes at the 2024 Quality Conference, **check out this video**.

Quality in Motion: Acting on the CMS National Quality Strategy, released in April 2024, details how CMS is putting the eight CMS NQS goals into action across its programs. It emphasizes the connections across the goals, and spotlights collaborative efforts to align with key partners across the health care ecosystem, such as the implementation of the Quality Improvement Organization Program and the transition to digital quality measurements. Below are highlights of two other CMS quality successes: **the Universal Foundation** and ***Advancing Health Care Safety for All***.

Highlighting Key Quality Initiatives

The Universal Foundation: Aligning Quality Measures Across CMS

The Universal Foundation is an initiative to align measures across CMS quality programs. The Universal Foundation is a set of measures that focus provider attention, reduce reporting burden, identify disparities in care, and prioritize development of interoperable, digital quality measures. Adopting Universal Foundation measures allows CMS to compare outcomes across programs and helps identify gaps in care. There are two foundational measure sets, Adult and Pediatric (Child), and three add-on measure sets, Maternity Care, Hospital and Post-Acute Care. To learn more visit **the Universal Foundation** online.

Advancing Health Care Safety for All

CMS plays a crucial role in improving health care safety and reducing harm to patients. CMS has outlined a three-point plan to enhance patient safety that reflects the Agency's commitment to a coordinated effort to prevent harm. *Advancing Health Care Safety for All* is focused on (1) promoting transparency, (2) advancing safety culture through partnerships, and (3) incentivizing zero harm. To learn more visit ***Advancing Health Care Safety for All*** online.

Call to Action

To advance the NQS goals, CMS welcomes collaboration from government partners, health care payers and providers, community-based organizations, and, importantly, individuals, families, caregivers, and communities. CMS invites all partners to:

- **Prioritize the use of Universal Foundation measures.**

- **Commit to improving health care safety and reducing harm.**

- **Advance health equity to improve health outcomes and eliminate disparities.**

Together, CMS and its partners across the health ecosystem are putting **quality in motion** to achieve the mission of optimal safety, equity, health, and well-being for all individuals.

To learn more visit CMS National Quality Strategy online.

Questions? Contact us at: QualityStrategy@cms.hhs.gov