

AQA Surgery/ Procedure Workgroup Mission and Principles

Mission:

The primary mission is to assess current proposals for standardized quality measurements in both the ambulatory and hospital-based care relating to medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures. The measures under review are intended to promote quality improvement and public accountability.

Principles for evaluation and selection of physician and other clinician measurement(s) for quality related to medical and surgical procedures:

1. The measures must be related to medical or surgical procedures performed by physicians or other clinicians.
2. The measures must be within the control of the physician(s) or other clinician(s) who perform the procedure. This includes aspects of care within a multidisciplinary team or for an individual physician or other clinician.
3. Procedures and their related outcomes occur across a period of time as part of an episode of illness/care. Measures developed may occur within the continuum of care, from making the decision to perform the procedure through the reasonable period of time for associated complications.
4. The measure must address one of the IOM's six dimensions of quality care (safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable).
5. Measures should be based on the highest-level of evidence available and should measure structure, process, or risk-adjusted outcomes.
6. Measures may be procedure-specific or cross-cutting across multiple specialties.
7. Measures may be developed by a variety of sources, such as the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement, or physician or other clinician specialty societies.
8. Measures should adhere to the *AQA Parameters for Selecting Measures for Physician and Other Clinician Performance*.
9. Measures should be assessed for selection to assure their importance and scientific acceptability, as well as to determine if they are useable and feasible.
10. After AQA approval, the document is to be presented for reaffirmation through additions, deletions, or edits every six months for two cycles, and then annually thereafter.
11. Measures should be relevant to consumers and purchasers (important and actionable).