

National Quality Forum Endorses Voluntary Standards for Home Health Care

The National Quality Forum (NQF) announced February 7, 2005 the endorsement of a set of Home Health Performance Measures. The voluntary consensus standards comprise a standardized set of performance measures for adult users of home health care services. The primary purpose of the NQF-endorsed measures is to provide information to assist consumer's selection of home health care providers. For more information about the NQF process, see their website at: www.qualityforum.org.

CMS is taking the NQF-endorsement into consideration as we revise Home Health Compare and OASIS. We expect to post a revision to Home Health Compare in a fall 2005 release.

The new quality measures are the following:

- Improvement in ambulation/locomotion
- Improvement in bathing
- Improvement in transferring
- Improvement in management of oral medications
- Improvement in pain interfering with activity
- Improvement in dyspnea
- Improvement in urinary incontinence
- Acute care hospitalization
- Discharge to community
- Emergent care.

We plan to add Improvement in Status of Surgical Wounds in a future release.

CMS plans to remove these measures in the fall 2005 release as they were not endorsed:

- Improvement in upper body dressing
- Stabilization in bathing
- Improvement in toileting
- Improvement in confusion frequency.