

SQAC Priorities:

Given the breadth of the four statutorily mandated measure sets (HEDIS, CMS, ACES, and HCAHPS), and their concentration on measuring hospital and physician group performance, the first annual SQAC process will be focused on recommending measure prioritization among those sets for promulgation of regulations, followed by discussions of measurements within three priority areas identified by the Co-Chairs. In keeping with the advisory role of the SQAC, the Co-Chairs will define priorities primarily through the expressed needs of the Department and Division, but also with input from SQAC members and the public.

The year-one focus for the SQAC selection and evaluation process will be quality measures that will aid state government in measuring the performance of integrated healthcare systems, such as ICOs, ACOs, and PCMHs. The development of such systems is critical to the state goal of encouraging high-quality, coordinated, and affordable healthcare. The opportunity for the SQAC to assist in developing the means to measure the success of this initiative will support state efforts to monitor the transformation of the delivery system.

- The following topics outline specific priority areas to be presented to the SQAC and that support the Committee's mission.
 - *Efficiency and system performance*
 - Patient outcomes (results of care: mortality, complications, quality of life, etc.)
 - Appropriate care utilization (processes of care regarding overuse, underuse, and misuse: preventable hospitalizations, MRIs for low back pain, antibiotics for URIs, elective C-section before 39 weeks, etc.)
 - *Care transitions and coordination*
 - Utilization of care transition tools (INTERACT,¹ CTM-3 or CTM-5,² etc.)
 - Measures of coordinated care (such as timely access, readmissions, avoidable ED visits)
 - *High-priority settings and clinical focus areas*
 - Behavioral health
 - Post-acute care settings
 - Community and population health
 - Free standing and hospital outpatient surgical centers

¹ Interventions to Reduce Acute Care Transfers

² Care Transitions Measure-3 or Care Transitions Measure-5