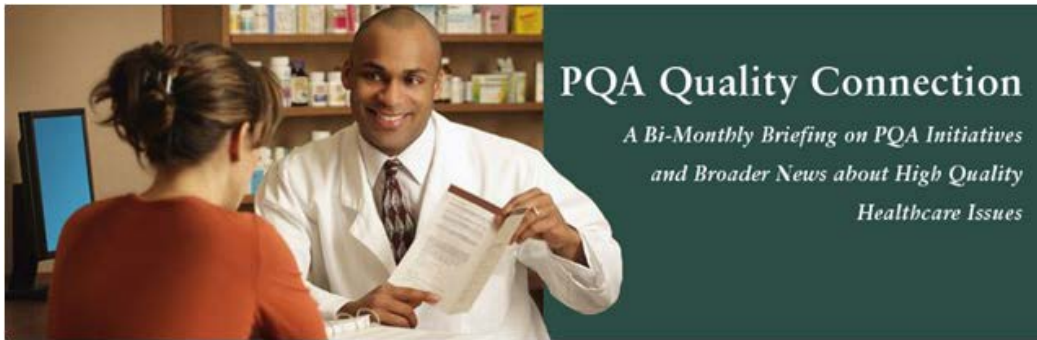




PQA Endorses New Performance Measure and Receives NQF Endorsement on Two Additional Measures

The membership of the Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA) endorsed a new performance measure, *Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes*, this past November. This measure evaluates the percentage of patients ages 40-75 years who were dispensed a medication for diabetes and who also received a statin medication. It is based on the 2013 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) Guideline on the Treatment of Blood Cholesterol to Reduce Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular (ASCV) Risk in Adults. PQA member organizations had the opportunity to submit written comments regarding the newly developed and tested performance measure, participate in a phone conference hosted by PQA staff to discuss the measure and address questions, and finally to vote electronically on its endorsement. PQA was pleased that 90% of member respondents voted to endorse the *Statin Use in Persons with Diabetes* measure.

The National Quality Forum (NQF) Board of Directors also announced on November 14th that it endorsed eight measures related to Patient Safety conditions, two of which are PQA measures: *Proportion of Days Covered (PDC): 3 Rates by Therapeutic Category* and *Antipsychotic Use in Children Under 5 Years Old*. Re-endorsement of *Proportion of Days Covered (PDC): 3 Rates by Therapeutic Category* emphasizes the importance of medication use in the management of chronic disease. The NQF re-endorsement further supports the use of this measure within the Medicare Star Rating program as well as the Health Insurance Marketplace's Quality Rating System (QRS) Beta Test measure-set. PQA's *Antipsychotic Use in Children Under 5 Years Old* measure was the second of the new measures endorsed by NQF. This measure is custom tailored for use in Medicaid programs, as it was developed for and tested in this population with a high proportion of children.