



The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Improving the Quality of Care for All Americans

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will make substantial investments to improve the quality and delivery of care and support research to inform consumers about patient outcomes resulting from different approaches to treatment and care delivery.

Establishment of a National Quality Strategy

- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will facilitate adoption of a national quality strategy including priorities and goals for quality improvement with input from multi-stakeholder organizations.
- ✓ Grants or contracts will support the development and endorsement of quality measures and the dissemination of measures.
- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will support the collection, aggregation, and analysis of quality data and supports public reporting of performance on quality.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will create an independent, non-profit Institute governed by public and private sector representatives to provide for research that helps inform the decisions of patients and providers regarding the clinical effectiveness of different medical treatments and services available for the same condition.
- ✓ Contracts will be authorized for public or private entities to conduct of research agenda.
- ✓ The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality will disseminate research findings from the Institute and other government-funded sources.
- ✓ The Institute will be funded by public payers and an assessment on health insurance plans.

Health Delivery System Research Center

- ✓ The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality will conduct research on health delivery system improvement and best practices that improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of health care delivery.
- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will support the dissemination of practice models as rapidly as possible that have been shown to improve care, reduce errors, and increase efficiency.

Creation of a Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Center

- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop and test innovative payment and care delivery models that emphasize coordination of care, quality improvement, and efficiency.
- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will provide \$10 billion to support initial programs over the next 10 years, but the Congressional Budget Office projects the Center will save more than it spends over the decade.

Medicare and Medicaid Quality Initiatives

- ✓ Medicare payment policies will promote quality outcomes including hospital and physician value-based purchasing and incentives for quality reporting and improvement for all Medicare providers.
- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will establish a national Accountable Care Organization program, bundling payments for an episode of care, and reduction of preventable hospital admissions to improve health care quality.
- ✓ A core set of quality measures will be developed for use in Medicaid programs and a national Medicaid Quality Measurement Program based on required State reporting and public disclosure.
- ✓ Medicare Advantage plans with high quality rankings will receive adjusted payments.

Quality Improvement in Private Health Plans

- ✓ The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will require plans offered in an exchange to reward quality by including payment incentives related to quality reporting, case management, chronic disease management, prevention of avoidable hospital admissions, improvement in patient safety, and promotion of wellness initiatives.
- ✓ Health insurance plans in the Exchange will be required to limit contracts with hospitals with more than 50 beds to those with patient safety evaluation systems and comprehensive discharge planning programs.