

A Roadmap to Meaningful Health Care Quality Measurement

PART 1 OF IMPLEMENTING HEALTH SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

PREAMBLE

During the 2016 election season, the Council of Accountable Physician Practices urged political candidates at all level to focus on three critical health policy issues. These issues — or platforms — can support a better health care delivery system and should be at the top of every policymakers' health care agenda:

- VALUE-BASED PAYMENT
- ROBUST AND COORDINATED USE OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- IMPROVED AND HARMONIZED QUALITY MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

In this brief, the first in a three-part series entitled "Implementing Health System Improvement," the physician leaders of CAPP provide more detailed guidance to newly-elected officials and members of the administration about how to move forward on one of these issues: quality measurement and reporting.

KEY POINTS

- Quality measurement and reporting are foundational to achieving a health care
 system that is higher-quality as well as more efficient and patient-centered than
 what most Americans experience today. However, the uncoordinated growth
 of quality measurement initiatives has created multiple parallel systems with
 hundreds of measures that place an unsustainable burden on health care providers.
 Information produced by these systems does not contribute meaningfully to
 improved health and wellbeing and is not easily understood by consumers.
- A more meaningful quality measurement system would have two key characteristics, compared to today's non-system: fewer measures and better measures, focusing on clinical areas where there is good evidence that improvements in performance translate into improvements in health.