



**American Hospital  
Association**

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March 11, 2005

Kenneth Kizer, MD, MPH  
President and CEO  
National Quality Forum  
601 Thirteenth Street, NW  
Suite 500 North  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Kizer:

On behalf of the American Hospital Association's (AHA) 4,700 member hospitals and health care systems and our 31,000 individual members, the AHA congratulates the National Quality Forum's Adult Diabetes Consensus Standards Maintenance Committee for this update of the previously endorsed set of diabetes care measures. Involving the National Diabetes Quality Improvement Alliance in this work with the National Quality Forum (NQF) provides the critical clinical expertise needed to enhance acceptance of the measures and promote use of the NQF's endorsed measures set. We believe the work of the Adult Diabetes Consensus Standards Maintenance Committee is an excellent model for the way in which NQF should be updating its measure sets.

While we have no suggestions for improvements in the draft report of the proposed updates to the diabetes measures, note that there appears to be a distinction between the types of measures this committee thought appropriate for public reporting and those measures identified by other NQF committees. In a recent NQF Board meeting, Lisa Iezzoni, MD urged that the NQF identify criteria that would delineate measures appropriate for quality improvement activities, measures that might be suitable for public reporting, and measures suitable for pay for performance. We agree with her recommendation and urge that NQF move ahead rapidly to address this issue. By doing so NQF can ensure greater consistency in determining which measures are suitable for different purposes, and provide greater clarity on their use to potential users.

If you need further information, please contact Nancy Foster, our vice president for quality and patient safety policy, at 202-626-2337.

Sincerely,

Carmela Coyle  
Senior Vice President

