
42 U.S. Code § 280j

National strategy for quality improvement in health care

(a) Establishment of national strategy and priorities

(1) National strategy

The Secretary, through a transparent collaborative process, shall establish a national strategy to improve the delivery of health care services, patient health outcomes, and population health.

(2) Identification of priorities

(A) In general

The Secretary shall identify national priorities for improvement in developing the strategy under paragraph (1).

(B) Requirements

The Secretary shall ensure that priorities identified under subparagraph (A) will—

- (i) have the greatest potential for improving the health outcomes, efficiency, and patient-centeredness of health care for all populations, including children and vulnerable populations;
- (ii) identify areas in the delivery of health care services that have the potential for rapid improvement in the quality and efficiency of patient care;
- (iii) address gaps in quality, efficiency, comparative effectiveness information (taking into consideration the limitations set forth in subsections (c) and (d) of section 1182 of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1320e-1(c), (d)]), and health outcomes measures and data aggregation techniques;
- (iv) improve Federal payment policy to emphasize quality and efficiency;
- (v) enhance the use of health care data to improve quality, efficiency, transparency, and outcomes;
- (vi) address the health care provided to patients with high-cost chronic diseases;
- (vii) improve research and dissemination of strategies and best practices to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors, preventable admissions and readmissions, and health care-associated infections;
- (viii) reduce health disparities across health disparity populations (as defined in section 285t^[1] of this title) and geographic areas; and
- (ix) address other areas as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(C) Considerations

In identifying priorities under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall take into consideration the recommendations submitted by the entity with a contract under section 1890(a) of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(a)] and other stakeholders.

(D) Coordination with State agencies

The Secretary shall collaborate, coordinate, and consult with State agencies responsible for administering the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.] and

the Children's Health Insurance Program under title XXI of such Act [42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.] with respect to developing and disseminating strategies, goals, models, and timetables that are consistent with the national priorities identified under subparagraph (A).

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