



Aligning Forces for Quality: An Introduction

August 22, 2011

Aligning Forces
for Quality | Improving Health & Health Care
in Communities Across America



What is Aligning Forces for Quality?

An unprecedented commitment by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to improve the quality of health care, reduce disparities related to race and ethnicity, and provide models for reform.

Within the 16 different Alliances of AF4Q exist local stakeholder groups charged with making sense of the quality problem in America and meeting it with local solutions.

Targeted Regions will Improve and Sustain High-Quality, Patient-Centered, Equitable Care by 2015

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Aligning Forces for Quality: A Bold Experiment



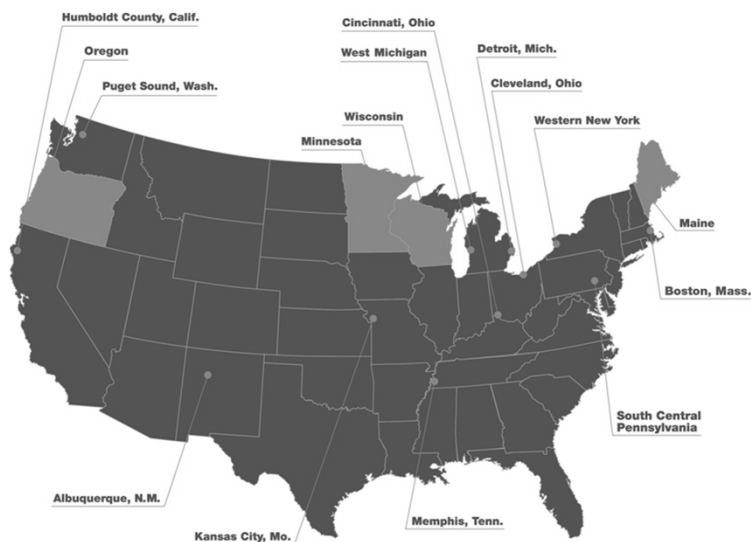
- Can those that **pay** for care, **provide** care, and **receive** care organize around a common goal...to ensure that their community provides high quality, patient-centered, and equitable care?

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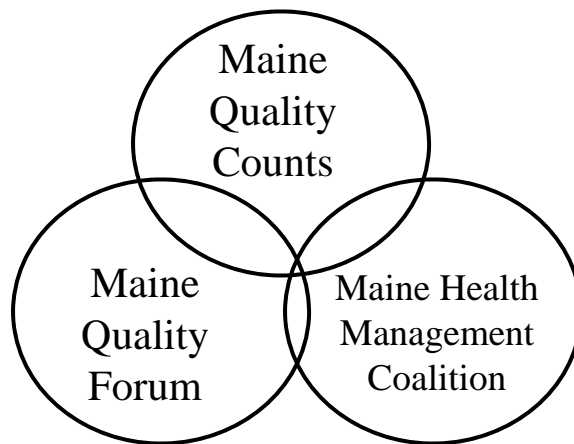
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16 Communities Across America



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Maine AF4Q Leadership



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Who We Are

- Independent, multi-stakeholder alliance in Maine working to transform health and healthcare by leading, collaborating, and aligning improvement efforts
- Members include consumers, healthcare professionals, hospitals, health systems, payers, employers, policy makers, and others working to improve health and healthcare

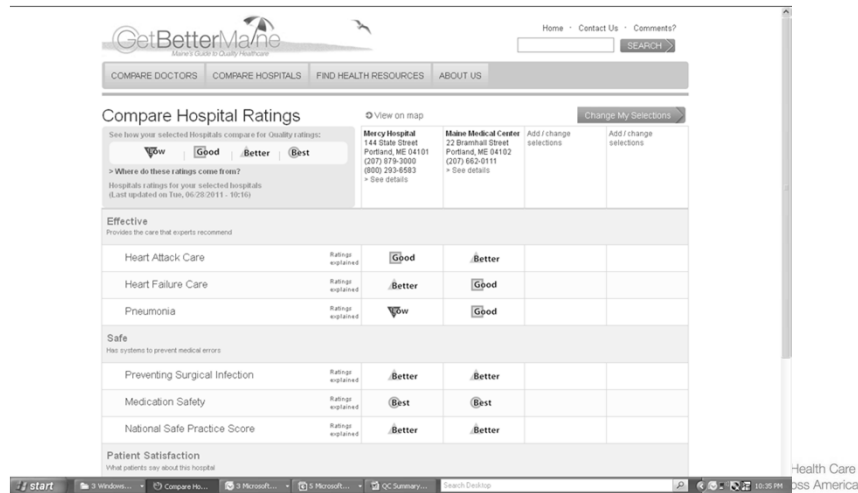
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The How: Performance Measurement & Public Reporting

- Use common (nationally endorsed) standards to measure quality. Measures of clinical quality, patient experience, and efficiency/cost.
- Inpatient and ambulatory (medical group, site-level, or individual physician level) information widely available.
- Goal is to spur quality improvement and facilitate informed decision making by consumers.

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Pubic Reporting in Maine: GetBetterMaine.org



Engaging Consumers

- Patients are active managers of their health care and make informed decisions and choices about their doctors and hospitals.
- Consumer advocates and individual consumers are meaningfully participants in the Alliance.
- Comparative performance information should be displayed in a consumer friendly manner.


Engaging Consumers

ASK
what your
doctor can do
for you

LEARN
what you
can do
for yourself

ACT
now to take
charge of your
diabetes

YOU CAN DO IT!



Maine
diabetes
PATHWAY
ask. learn. act.

The Diabetes Pathway is a project of the Maine Aligning Forces for Quality initiative and Quality Counts, Maine Health Management Coalition, and the Maine Quality Forum. This effort is made possible with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and by generous contributions from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Cincinnati Aligning Forces for Quality program, and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

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Ensuring not just Quality, but also Equality

- Standardize collection of patient race, ethnicity and language data
- Stratify and analyze data
- Use data to reduce disparities through quality improvement interventions

Disparities is a failure in health care quality.

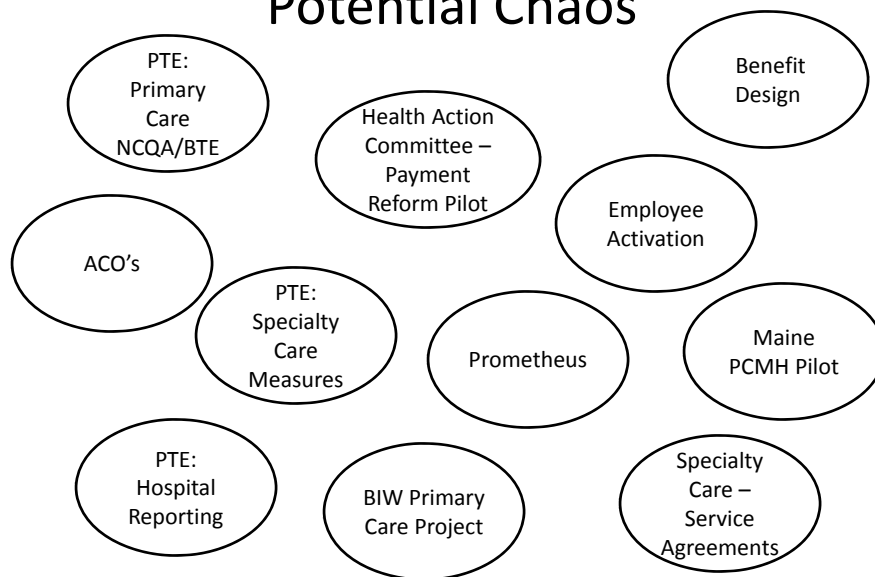
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Improving Quality in Hospitals and Physician Practices

- Hospital Quality Network (HQN)
 - ✓ *Reducing Readmissions*
 - ✓ *Improving Language Services*
 - ✓ *Increasing Throughput*
 - ✓ *Transforming Care at the Bedside*
- Ambulatory Quality Improvement (AQI)
 - Supporting communities in building infrastructure for primary care improvement

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Potential Chaos



Aligning Maine's "Forces"

