Measure What Matters

Cardiovascular disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States. A key risk factor is high cholesterol—specifically, high low-density lipoprotein (LDL), cholesterol. Managing cholesterol, therefore, is paramount to addressing America's cardiovascular health crisis.

Quality measures allow physicians to manage high cholesterol effectively. Physicians and health care systems use the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' metrics to help guide their patients to better health. Making those metric more precise can improve both patient care and patient outcomes.

What are quality measures?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services use quality measures to set national clinical priorities, publicly report data and incentivize the provision of quality health care. The measures aim to ensure Medicare beneficiaries receive top-tier care through accountability and public disclosure.

Why do they matter?

Quality measures set the standard all Medicare and Medicaid patients and providers must follow to ensure patients get helpful, safe and timely care. CMS uses these metrics as a reference to provide payment to specific health care providers.

How could they be improved?

CMS' current quality measure for the treatment of patients with cardiovascular disease is based upon statin prescription alone. The quality measure assumes that patients who have been prescribed a statin have their cholesterol under control. But that is not the full story. Patients' cholesterol also needs to be measured.

Patients need a number. Measuring toward a goal will help **improve patient care and outcomes for people with cardiovascular disease.**

PARTNERSHIP TO advance **cardiovascular health**