

What Do Health Care Leaders Say about the QIO Program?

Leading transformation of the American health care system, Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) help providers improve quality of care delivered in hospitals, physician offices, nursing homes, and by home health agencies. QIOs are also in the forefront of helping practitioners implement health information technology systems.

"The QIO program must become an integral part of strategies for future performance measurement and improvement in the health care system."

*IOM Report on QIOs
March 2006*

"I consider QIOs to be one of the great yet untapped resources in health care... They are the front field force of leading change in practices across the United States."

*David Brailer, MD, PhD,
National Coordinator
for Health Information Technology
February 2005*

"We believe that the new and expanded work by the QIOs is extremely important."

*Sens. Charles Grassley (R-IA)
Max Baucus (D-MT)
November 2004*

"We stand behind CMS Administrator McClellan's plan for increased QIO cooperative efforts with our members under the 8th SOW."

*A letter cosigned by
nine health care organization CEOs
February 2005*

"QIOs are a central player in the Administration's efforts to improve the quality of care provided to Medicare beneficiaries."

HHS FY2006 Budget-In-Brief

"If (the 100,000 lives campaign) works, it will be because of the QIOs."

*Donald Berwick, MD, President and CEO,
Institute for Healthcare Improvement
February, 2005*

"QIOs are Medicare's most important contractors."

*Mark McClellan, MD, PhD, Administrator,
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
August 2004*

"We fully support the role of QIOs in assisting small- and medium-sized physician offices to adopt, implement, and effectively use health information technology (HIT)... QIOs provide a trusted national network of resources."

*Reps. Nancy Johnson (R-CT)
Michael Bilirakis (R-FL)
Jim Ramstad (R-MN)
Charles Norwood (R-GA)
November 2004*

"The 2005 National Health Quality Report shows that there has been much more rapid improvement... where there have been focused efforts to improve performance. For example, measures for heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia showed an annual improvement of 9.2 percent. These are priority areas for Medicare, where hospitals have received special help from Medicare's Quality Improvement Organizations."

*Carolyn Clancy, MD,
Director, Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality
January 2006*