

Endorsement and Maintenance (E&M) Initial Recognition and Management Roster Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Cycles

Final

August 2024



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505 King Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201
Published August 2024

This roster was developed under Contract Number 75FCMC23C0010, entitled, "National Consensus Development and Strategic Planning for Health Care Quality Measurement," sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Introduction

The Endorsement and Maintenance (E&M) process is conducted biannually in the fall and spring to review and make endorsement decisions on submitted measures.

Measures undergoing endorsement review are organized into five projects: Primary Prevention; Initial Recognition and Management; Management of Acute Events, Chronic Disease, Surgery, and Behavioral Health; Advanced Illness and Post-Acute Care; and Cost and Efficiency.

Project committees are divided into Advisory Groups (35-40 people) and Recommendation Groups (20-25 people). Advisory Groups provide feedback and questions about the measures under review before the Recommendation Groups render final endorsement decisions.

Committee members are appointed to a 3-year term and will serve on both the Advisory and Recommendation Groups, respectively, throughout their tenure. The Advisory and Recommendation Group assignments in this roster apply to the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Cycles.

Please note, only individual members—and not organizational members—serve on E&M projects. Individual members represent their own perspective and experience.

Biographies are provided by nominees, with typographical and grammatical editing completed by Battelle.

Learn more about membership types and roster categories in the [E&M Guidebook](#).

E&M Initial Recognition and Management Committee Roster Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Cycles Members

**Martha Abshire Saylor
Kobi Ajayi
Kory Anderson
Matt Austin
Jennifer Bailit
Rebecca Bartles
Juliet Bartsch
Jacqueline Blauvelt
Jill Blazier
Gregary Bocsi
Darius Bradley Sr.
Kent Bream
Nicole Cable
Billy Caceres
Emily Calvert
David Chand
Ashley Comiskey**

**Raymund Dantes
Mark Ellison
Karen Fernandes
Oren Guttman
April Harris
Carole Hemmelgarn
Janet Hurley
Hannah Ingber
Sonali Iyer
Abraham Jacob
Zainab Jah
Rebecca Jones
Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh
Barbara Kivowitz
Marianne Kraemer
Lisa Leckrone
Tammy Love**

**Selena McCord
Cindi McElhaney
Patricia Merryweather-
Arges
Denise Morse
Sheila Owens-Collins
Darryl Roberts
Patrick Romano
Joseph Saseen
Talia Sasson
Thomas Spiegel
Phoebe Thriffiley
Jean-Luc Tilly
Arjun Venkatesh
Usha Venugopal
Eric Weinhandl
Janice Young**

E&M Initial Recognition and Management Committee Roster Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Cycles

*Committee Co-Chair

Name (Last, First)	Perspectives	Advisory or Recommendation Assignment ¹	Term Period ²	Location (City, State)	Biography
Abshire Saylor, Martha	Health Services Researcher; Clinician	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Baltimore, Maryland	Martha Abshire Saylor is an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Her clinical experience is in cardiac and critical care, and research interests include an emphasis on psychosocial sequelae of advanced illness, advanced heart failure management, shared decision-making, and patient-reported outcomes. She has developed and tested strengths-based interventions to support caregivers of persons with heart failure and stroke and advance care planning interventions to support older adults (with and without dementia) and their families. Dr. Abshire Saylor has methodological expertise in using mixed quantitative and qualitative methods to understand complex phenomena including multi-component interventions.
Ajayi, Kobi	Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate; Health Equity Expert; Health Services Researcher	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	College Station, Texas	Dr. Kobi Ajayi is a health behavior and health system scientist with experience in culturally noncongruent research, workforce development, nonprofit leadership, and evaluation and monitoring. Dr. Ajayi employs equity and social justice lenses in her research and practice to develop interventions to protect and promote women's health across the life course. Dr. Ajayi earned her doctorate and Master of Public Health from Texas A&M University. She holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University, United Kingdom. Dr. Ajayi is the principal consultant at Kajayi Consulting and Evaluation Services LLC. Patient participant.

¹ Committee members will serve on both the Advisory and Recommendation Groups, respectively, throughout their tenure. The Advisory and Recommendation Group assignments in this roster apply to the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 cycles.

² Committee members seated in October 2023 received a random term period of 2 or 3 years. Committee members seated in October 2024 have a 3-year term period.

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Anderson, Kory	Facility/Institution; Clinician	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	Salt Lake City, Utah	Dr. Kory Anderson did his medical school training at Oregon Health and Sciences University in Portland, Oregon, and then completed his internal medicine residency at the University of Utah in 2008. Since that time, he has worked clinically as a hospitalist within the Intermountain Health System. Dr. Anderson currently serves as the enterprise medical director of Intermountain Healthcare’s Physician Advisor Services, CDI and Quality teams, which spans seven states. In this role, he has responsibility for physician utilization review, clinical documentation integrity, physician education, and physician appeals and denials, along with quality performance and reporting, and has been involved in this work for over 11 years. Dr. Anderson has spoken numerous times on the national stage on topics related to quality, CDI, and physician advisor work. He is passionate about improving quality, safety, and the patient experience, which are key fundamentals of care at Intermountain Health.
Austin, Matt	Health Services Researcher	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Baltimore, Maryland	Dr. Matt Austin is an associate professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a principal faculty member at the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. His research focuses on performance measurement in health care. Dr. Austin’s current research interests include understanding the role of transparency of quality and safety data in driving improvements in care delivery, measuring disparities in the quality of care, and measuring the diagnostic performance of hospitals. Dr. Austin currently provides strategic guidance to The Leapfrog Group on performance measures for their annual Leapfrog Hospital Survey, Hospital Safety Grade, and Ambulatory Surgery Center Survey

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Bailit, Jennifer	Other Interested Parties (Quality of Care Expert); Clinician	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Cleveland, Ohio	Dr. Bailit did her undergraduate work at Brown University, medical school at Tufts School of Medicine, residency at Prentice Women’s Center at Northwestern and her MFM fellowship, Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar’s program, and advanced training in public health at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Bailit’s research career has focused on measuring and improving the quality of care and outcomes for obstetric patients and their newborns. Her published research on complications of pregnancy and adverse neonatal outcomes has focused on patient, provider, and health system factors as well as policy forces that may adversely affect maternal-child outcomes. Dr. Bailit’s clinical expertise is in maternal-fetal medicine, specifically pregnant women with substance use disorder.
Bartles, Rebecca	Other Interested Parties (Quality Improvement Expert); Facility/Institution	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Maple Valley, Washington	Rebecca (Becca) Bartles is the executive director of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Prevention™ (APIC)’s Center for Research, Practice, and Innovation (CRPI). Becca has practiced infection prevention and infectious disease epidemiology for the last 18 years in a variety of health care settings and has numerous publications focused on infection prevention staffing and endoscope safety. She received both her BS in public health, health education and her MPH in epidemiology from East TN State University. She completed her doctorate in public health in 2021 with a dissertation topic of “Assessing efficacy of an evidence-based <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> screening tool using electronic medical record data.” Becca also teaches courses at the University of Providence for a Master’s in Infection Prevention degree program that she founded in 2016. She has been CIC certified since 2008 and is an APIC fellow. Most notably, though, Becca is the mother of four amazing daughters, ages 9-25.
Bartsch, Juliet	Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate; Clinician; Facility/Institution	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Lansdowne, Virginia	Ms. Juliet Bartsch has been a nurse for 7 years and has worked on hospital tele-med-surg floors, hospice, and for the last few years in the emergency department (pediatric and adult). These jobs have spanned from staff nurse to travel nurse and case manager. Patient participant.

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Blauvelt, Jacqueline	Facility/Institution; Other Interested Parties (Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Expert)	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Edison, New Jersey	Jacqui Blauvelt is a nurse of more than 17 years and a director of patient safety and quality at Hackensack Meridian Health, with a passion for patient safety and quality deeply ingrained in her professional journey. Her career began in the demanding environment of the ICU, where she honed her clinical skills and developed a profound understanding of the critical role of safety and quality in patient care. For over 8 years, she has dedicated herself to advancing patient safety and quality initiatives within health care organizations. Her recent focus has been on the implementation of effective quality measures and the meticulous analysis of data to drive continuous improvement. This blend of clinical expertise and quality-focused knowledge has equipped her with invaluable experience and insights, which she would leverage to develop and endorse quality measures that truly make a difference.
Blazier, Jill	Rural Health Expert; Clinician; Facility/Institution	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Broomfield, Colorado	Ms. Jill Blazier holds over 26 years of experience in health care quality improvement, patient safety, and as a clinician in nursing and leadership in the obstetrics department. As a versatile quality leader with extensive scope, Ms. Blazier sees value in aligning quality measures across multiple quality reporting and pay-for-performance programs. She has years of experience in hospital and clinician measurement in federal, state, and commercial quality programs. While serving Intermountain Health, she leads a team and is directly involved in many stages of the measure lifecycle, from evaluating proposals in federal rulemaking to implementation of new measures, maintenance of specific updates, and leveraging the subsequent data to engage clinicians and leadership in quality assessment and improvement. Ms. Blazier is passionate about patient safety and process improvement, seeking hospitals to collaborate, enrich one another, and provide the safe, highly reliable care that patients and consumers desperately need in virtually every area of our complex health system.

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Bocsi, Gregory	Facility/Institution; Clinician	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Aurora, Colorado	Dr. Gregory Bocsi is a board-certified anatomic and clinical pathologist with subspecialty certifications in molecular genetic pathology and clinical informatics who is the laboratory director for the University of Colorado Hospital Clinical Laboratories. He is involved in the College of American Pathologists' efforts to collect and report data that accurately characterize the quality and value of pathologists' contributions to patient care as an active member of the CAP Quality and Clinical Data Registry Affairs Committee. He is experienced with measure evaluation, endorsement, and maintenance due to his work with the National Quality Forum Cancer Standing Committee and from working on quality measure development.
Bradley Sr., Darius	Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Missouri City, TX	Patient participant.
Bream, Kent	Clinician; Facility/Institution; Health Equity Expert; Health Services Researcher	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Dr. Kent Bream is a leader in community medicine. He has practiced family medicine in Philadelphia with extensive experience working in collaborative research and educational and clinical projects with specific attention to underserved communities primarily in the context of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). His work led to the founding of the Dr. Bennett L Jonson Jr. Sayre Health Center and his current role as interim CMO at Spectrum Health Services. He understands the importance of quality measurement and reporting with expertise in UDS (Uniform Data System) reporting for FQHCs as well as population health metrics. He often serves as a formal and informal advisor to other clinical leaders in community medicine and population health.

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Cable, Nicole	Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Miramar, Florida	<p>Nicole Cable embarked on her professional journey across diverse industries, beginning in retail and hospitality, before finding her true calling in health care. Motivated by a personal battle with a hospital-acquired infection, she transitioned to focus on enhancing the patient experience.</p> <p>As the founder of IGNITE HX, Nicole is a seasoned professional and the proud owner of a Black woman-led business dedicated to elevating human experiences across healthcare and other industries. Her pioneering work in creating Offices of Human Experience (OHX) has left a lasting impact. As a recognized figure in business and CX (customer experience) leadership, she inspires positive change.</p> <p>Nicole has been named among the Top 50 Women We Admire in Wellness & Fitness for 2024 and 2023, one of South Florida Business Journal’s Influential Business Women of 2023, and a top 20 CX Leader to Watch and Inaugural Global Power List member in 2022 by the CX Network. Her active involvement in various leadership roles demonstrates her unwavering commitment to shaping the future of patient experience.</p>
Caceres, Billy	Health Equity Expert; Clinician; Health Services Researcher	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	New York, New York	<p>Dr. Billy A. Caceres is an assistant professor of nursing at Columbia University and a nationally recognized expert on social and structural determinants of cardiovascular health. He is a board-certified nurse and nurse practitioner with expertise in cardiology. In 2020, he chaired the American Heart Association’s (AHA) first scientific statement on the cardiovascular health of sexual and gender minority adults. His contributions to cardiovascular health and health equity research have been recognized with awards from the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association.</p>
Calvert, Emily	Other Interested Parties (Measure Developer); Clinician	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Linthicum, Maryland	<p>Emily Calvert is a master’s-prepared nurse with 9+ years of experience in quality improvement, patient safety, and clinical experience in the hospital setting. In her current role as the project manager of quality & measurement at the American Urological Association, she helps to manage the measure maintenance and development process for the AUA Quality (AQUA) Registry.</p>

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Chand, David	Purchaser/Plan; Clinician	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Fairlawn, Ohio	Dr. David Chand is a senior medical director of clinical quality, Aetna Medical Affairs. He supports clinical integrity, relevance, timeliness, and transparency in clinical quality measurement for all lines of business and alternative payment models. In his fifth year at Aetna, he has also served as a medical director for its Kentucky Medicaid plan and senior medical director for its Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP) in Ohio.
Comiskey, Ashley	Clinician; Facility/Institution	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2026	Paducah, Kentucky	Ms. Ashley Comiskey has worked in the health care industry for over 20 years, with experience in critical care nursing, clinical documentation integrity, accountable care organizations, and quality improvement. She is an expert in claims-based quality measures, specifically disease-specific mortalities and patient safety indicators. She currently works as a quality director and is committed to understanding measure specifications and compliantly reporting accurate quality of care data. In 2019 she was the recipient of ACDIS's Rookie of the Year Award and in 2020 she received the 2020 Trust Builder Award provided by Trust HCS.
*Dantes, Raymund	Clinician; Facility/Institution; Other Interested Parties (Measure Developer)	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	Atlanta, Georgia	Dr. Raymund Dantes is an associate professor of medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine, where he also serves as the physician lead for sepsis activities across the seven-hospital Emory Healthcare system. In these roles, Dr. Dantes has come to appreciate the value and importance of well-designed clinical quality measures. He also serves as a medical advisor for the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network, where he conducts research and development for new digital quality measures in the CDC pipeline.
Ellison, Mark	Purchaser/Plan	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Charlottesville, Virginia	Mr. Mark Ellison helps internal stakeholders understand drivers of unfavorable clinical outcomes and develop robust strategies to address root causes. As a staff vice president of advanced analytics at Elevance Health, he oversees clinical analytics as well as being responsible for standardizing definitions and measures for the enterprise. For Mr. Ellison, seeing the success of the strategies created based on his team insights and recommendations is the most rewarding part of the role.

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Fernandes, Karen	Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Dallas, Texas	<p>Ms. Karen Fernandes is president of AYR Consulting Group, which supports hospitals across the United States in their quest for quality and patient safety along with compliance to The Joint Commission (TJC) Standards and Medicare Regulations. Quality performance metrics has been a focus in support of patient safety and equity in her work with hospitals. She has served as chairperson of The Joint Commission’s Professional Technical Advisory Committee for Hospitals and is currently on the TJC Consultant’s Forum. Additionally, Ms. Fernandes was a member of the Federation of American Hospitals Quality Committee and served as chairperson of the Quality Committee. She was also a member of the National Quality Forum on the Consumer Council, Provider Council, and Quality Council. She is the administrator for Diethylstilbestrol (DES) Info Association that provides ongoing information and support to the DES Exposed.</p> <p>Patient participant.</p>
Guttman, Oren	Facility/Institution; Clinician	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	<p>Dr. Oren Guttman serves as the enterprise vice president for High Reliability and Patient Safety for the Jefferson Health. He holds an endowed chair in the health system as the Edward Asplundh Chief Quality and Patient Safety Officer for Jefferson Health Abington division and is an active associate professor of anesthesiology at Sidney Kimmel Medical College. He is a member of the renowned Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation and a published author with a national voice on embedding human factors, systems engineering, and other safety science principles and practices into clinical operations.</p>
Harris, April	Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Indianapolis, Indiana	<p>Patient participant.</p>

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*Hemmelgarn, Carole	Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate; Other Interested Parties (Patient Safety Expert)	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Highlands Ranch, Colorado	<p>Ms. Carole Hemmelgarn is the director for the Executive Master's Clinical Quality, Safety & Leadership program at Georgetown University and the senior director of Education at the MedStar Institute for Quality & Safety. Her interest in making health care safe stems from the loss of her daughter from multiple medical errors. She is a founding member of Patients for Patient Safety US and is actively engaged in committees and boards at Leapfrog, Children's Hospital Colorado, Collaborative for Accountability and Improvement, National Quality Forum, and Solutions for Patient Safety.</p> <p>Patient participant.</p>
Hurley, Janet	Facility/Institution; Clinician	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	Tyler, Texas	<p>Dr. Janet Hurley is a family medicine physician who has over 20 years of medical leadership experience within the Texas Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Family Physicians, CHRISTUS Trinity Clinic, and CHRISTUS Health. Prior to her current role within CHRISTUS Health, she served for over 5 years as the Medical Director of Population Health, overseeing the organization's value-based payer plans, and translating HEDIS, MSSP, Medicaid and other quality measures into local dashboard metrics for quality oversight and reporting. She understands the need to create metrics that are not only clinically meaningful for high-quality patient care, but also must be practically translatable and measurable within electronic health records. She continues to practice outpatient family medicine 1 day per week, utilizing the clinical decision-support tools she helps to create within her organization.</p>

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Ingber, Hannah	Other Interested Parties (Quality Measurement Expert)	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Washington, D.C.	Ms. Hannah Ingber is a manager at the National Quality Forum (NQF) in Washington, D.C., a not-for-profit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that addresses the most important structural issues upstream and downstream of our nation's portfolio of health care quality measures and to advance the next generation of measures. Her work currently focuses on improving measurement of diagnostic excellence in the health care system and prior work has focused on assessing the scientific acceptability of accountability measures, developing guidance on best practices for risk adjustment, and recommending measurement solutions to improve maternal morbidity and mortality rates in the U.S. Prior to NQF, she worked to improve women's health at the Institute for Family Health, a Federally Qualified Health Center in New York City, by tracking and supporting the goal of 100% patient engagement and understanding related to cervical cancer screening results. She holds a Bachelor of Sociology degree from Barnard College, Columbia University, and a Master of Public Health degree from Yale University.
Iyer, Sonali	Clinician; Other Interested Parties (Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Expert)	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Orange, California	Sonali Iyer, an associate clinical professor in the Department of Medicine in the Division of Hospital Medicine (UC Irvine) since 2010, graduated from the Rosalind Franklin School of Medicine and completed her internal medicine residency at UCI Health. She has strong desire to improve patient safety and quality of care; therefore, she has served on a number of committees and completed quality improvement projects and developed resident educational material toward this goal. She has served as the medical director for the Sepsis Task Force for UCI Health since 2018. As the Sepsis Physician Champion, she manages multiple sepsis initiatives including Patient Safety Indicator (PSI)-13 for Post-op Sepsis, Sepsis Readmission Reduction, and Sepsis Mortality Reduction teams. She has been involved in creating educational material on sepsis for the Internal Medicine and Emergency medicine residency programs and for the ALERT (rapid response) Nurse team. As a reflection of the service and commitment of her role in the community and within the medical center, she was awarded with the Physician of Excellence by the Orange County Medical Association and recognized as a Southern California Rising Star.

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Jacob, Abraham	Clinician; Facility/Institution	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Dr. Abraham Jacob has been in clinical practice for 25 years, as a hospitalist and primary care physician. Dr. Jacob has extensive experience in health care quality and patient safety, having served as chief medical officer of a hospital and chief quality officer of M Health Fairview since 2019. As CQO, Dr. Jacob has oversight over inpatient and ambulatory quality, patient and employee safety, infection control, regulatory and health care disparities. M Health Fairview has 10 hospitals in Minnesota, including an academic health center.
Jah, Zainab	Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate; Health Equity Expert; Other Interested Parties (Quality Measurement Expert)	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	Silver Spring, Maryland	<p>Ms. Zainab Jah is a Black/Latina woman from the South who leads with personal experiences to inform her work. Her career as a community-based researcher has allowed her to uplift stories of community members to inform the development of patient-reported experience measures and other clinical measures to achieve birth equity as well as inform policy regarding climate change impacts on pregnant women. She was influenced to work in the reproductive justice movement by her mother's experience with endometriosis and her experience of engaging in the health care system with ovarian cysts, a ruptured appendix, and more.</p> <p>Patient participant.</p>

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Jones, Rebecca	Other Interested Parties (Measure Developer); Clinician; Facility	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Siloam Springs, Arkansas	<p>Rebecca Jones is a registered nurse with over 25 years of experience in the health care industry including clinical practice, education, quality improvement, patient safety, and administration. She is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) through the National Association of Healthcare Quality, and a Certified Professional in Patient Safety (CPPS) through the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.</p> <p>Rebecca previously worked for several large health care systems, universities, as well as quality improvement organizations. Her primary focus has been to systematically improve health outcomes and reduce harm for patients, families, and communities through her work on quality and patient safety initiatives. Her previous work includes development and implementation of national hospital quality measures used to promote accountability for the care provided to patients in various health care settings and working to meet regulatory compliance standards set forth by accrediting agencies and organizations.</p> <p>She received her Juris Doctor from the University of Tulsa College of Law, a DNP in executive leadership through the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, her MSN in health systems management from Vanderbilt University, and BSN from Baylor University.</p>
Kalantar-Zadeh, Kamyar	Clinician; Health Equity Expert	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Palos Verdes, California	<p>Dr. Kalantar-Zadeh is the chief of the Division of Nephrology & Hypertension & Transplantation within the Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and the president of the National Forum of ESRD Networks, the congressionally mandated organizations to monitor quality and safety of End-Stage Renal Disease programs in the nation. He also brings health equity expertise to the committee.</p>

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Kivowitz, Barbara	Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate; Health Equity Expert	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	San Francisco, California	<p>Ms. Barbara Kivowitz is a clinician, consultant, and author specializing in health care innovation with the goal of helping organizations shift to more patient/family-centered models of care. She is the coauthor of <i>Love in the Time of Chronic Illness: How to Fight the Sickness, Not Each Other</i>, a guide for patient-caregiver partners and for the clinicians who help them. She has delivered programs based on her book at Stanford Health Care and Medical School, UCSF, Sutter Health, Massachusetts General Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Center, the Beryl Institute, and elsewhere. She is currently on the Board of Directors of Sutter Health Medical Direct, which oversees care for Medicare patients, and she is also on the Board of Directors of San Francisco Village, an intentional community of older adults. She is on the Honorary Board of Well Spouse Organization, on the Advisory Board of Patient and Family Centered Care Partners, and on the Technical Advisory Committee for California Health Compares. She participates in national patient/family-focused health initiatives through the American College of Physicians, the National Institute on Aging, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and PCORI. She serves as a patient family advisor at Sutter Health.</p> <p>Patient participant.</p>
Kraemer, Marianne	Health Equity Expert; Clinician	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Marlton, New Jersey	<p>Ms. Marianne Kraemer has over 40 years of experience as a nurse. She earned her Bachelor of Nursing degree from Widener University, Master of Public Administration (MPA) – Health Care Policy from Rutgers University, and Master of Education (M. Ed.) in Organizational Dynamics from Temple University. She previously worked in post-open heart critical care and has experience in infection prevention and control, cardio-pulmonary, medical ethics, quality improvement, as well as equity, diversity, and inclusion. Ms. Kraemer previously served as a chief nursing officer and an assistant vice president in quality and safety. She is an active volunteer with Sepsis Alliance as an advisory board member and in her community on topics such as suicide and crisis, the environment, and the socially disadvantaged.</p>

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Leckrone, Lisa	Rural Health Expert; Facility/Institution	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Hobart, Indiana	Ms. Lisa Leckrone is a dynamic health care leader with extensive experience in progressive clinical, managerial, and administrative experience. She has a passion for improving patient care and clinical outcomes by promoting evidence-based practice and ensuring a holistic approach. Ms. Leckrone achieved substantial improvement in facility publicly reported CMS quality measures, including a reduction in readmissions due to integration of screening for social determinants of health. She has a personal interest in improving clinical outcomes through initial disease recognition and management and acute/chronic disease management.
Love, Tammy	Other Interested Parties (Patient Safety and Quality Expert); Clinician	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Burlington, Kentucky	Ms. Tammy Love is a senior manager healthcare executive for Oracle Health on the Quality and Patient Safety team. She is board certified in nursing and holds certifications in nursing informatics, patient safety, and Lean Six Sigma. She had over 25 years of health care experience both as a clinician and a core measure abstractor before moving into administrative roles mostly focused on quality, risk management, patient safety, and informatics. As a chief quality officer, Ms. Love built a quality management program for a critical access hospital and assisted in the development of the corporate toolkit for quality. Her role at Oracle Health is to bridge the gap between the EHR technology and a facility's clinical team providing insights into the use of health information technology to improve care delivery, clinical workflows, quality measurement, regulatory reporting, and patient safety.
McCord, Selena	Rural Health Expert; Health Equity Expert	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2026	Duluth, Minnesota	Ms. Selena McCord is the community program manager of The National Rural Health Resource Center's Delta Region Community Health Systems Development Program, where she manages the delivery of technical assistance (TA) services designed to support rural Delta Region health care organizations with building community capacity, integrating social services, and developing and implementing community care coordination plans to strengthen the local health care delivery system. Prior to joining The Center, Ms. McCord developed and facilitated lay health worker training curricula as a part of the Gulf Region Health Outreach Program and the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative's Consortium for Resilient Gulf Communities' grant. Her interests are rural health equity, primary health care, community engagement, Black maternal health disparities, and organizational culture and excellence.

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McElhaney, Cindi	Health Services Researcher	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Portland, Oregon	Cindi McElhaney joined Comagine Health in 2011 and manages the Measurement and Reporting analytics team. She has worked extensively with all-payer claims data maintained by the Oregon Data Collaborative and through an analytics services contract with Florida’s Agency for Health Care Administration. Cindi also has experience with the calculation and analysis of performance metrics. With almost 30 years of experience analyzing administrative claims data in her roles at a variety of health plans, Cindi works with her team to ensure that measurement and reporting are both accurate and relevant to various stakeholder audiences. Cindi holds a bachelor’s degree in mathematical sciences.
Merryweather-Arges, Patricia	Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2026	Naperville, Illinois	<p>Ms. Patricia Merryweather-Arges has over 30 years of successful experience utilizing and identifying performance measures that are drivers of improved outcomes of care and patient experience in hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient care, and communities. She currently promotes and facilitates patient and family advisory councils; patient-driven initiatives on PCORI awards; and in collaboration with local, state, and international health organizations. She developed the Quality Care Institute at Illinois Hospital Association, as well as a multi-state quality and disease-based system for five states. She has also advocated successfully for legislation on public reporting of hospital infections. Like many people, Ms. Merryweather-Arges is a patient and family caregiver. She has held unique positions serving as a hospital board chairperson of a safety net hospital in Chicago; a director on Cook County health system quality and safety committee of the board; member of the Illinois Public Health Institute Board; executive committee member of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago; and vice president of the Rotary International Board of Directors, which has a major focus on polio eradication and peace. Ms. Merryweather-Arges believes that quality and performance measures are critical in improving outcomes and processes of care, and having the patient and caregiver voice allows one to focus on what is most important.</p> <p>Patient participant.</p>

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Morse, Denise	Other Interested Parties (Measure Developer); Patient, Caregiver, and Patient Advocate	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Duarte, California	Denise Morse’s role at City of Hope is as the director of quality and value analytics. She has over 15 years’ experience in quality including measure development, analytics, and leadership. In her role, she has been on the forefront of internal metric development, measurement and analysis of all quality, and practitioner-level data. As a data acquirer, reporter and user, she can bring a frontline data analyst and scientist view to the committees and workgroup. She is the previous chair of an organization called C4QI- Comprehensive Cancer Center Consortium for Quality Improvement. This group is made up of 19 top cancer centers in the country that focus on metric development, reporting, and analysis to promote positive change for the increasing number of cancer patients that present to our centers. As a primary member of the Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers (ADCC), she is particularly focused on the creation of the PPS Exempt Cancer Specific Readmissions measure as well as working on goal-concordant care and end-of-life measurement.
Owens-Collins, Sheila	Clinician; Other Interested Parties (Population Health Expert)	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	Potomac, Maryland	Dr. Sheila Owens-Collins is a business-driven medical executive, managed care expert, specialist in population health management, and board-certified neonatal perinatal medicine and pediatrics physician who focuses on clinical outcomes and performance. Dr. Owens-Collins also has special interest in addressing social determinants of health, removing health disparities, and promoting health equity within underserved/high-risk populations, as well as developing and implementing programs that improve health outcomes for children, youth, families, and the elderly.

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Roberts, Darryl	Health Services Researcher; Clinician	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Windsor Mill, Maryland	<p>Dr. Roberts is a registered nurse and the vice president for Health Informatics Solutions at RELI Group, Inc. He has conducted research and development activities in numerous projects ranging from public health improvement programs in psychiatry, pulmonology, and chemical exposure to impact evaluations of federal laws and legal mandates. These projects resulted in 25 peer-reviewed papers cited over 1,000 times. He dedicates much of his career to conducting research on risk mitigation and assessment to improve clinical outcomes. Areas of interest include: epidemiology of nursing sensitive factors in intimate violence and suicidality; development of clinical quality measures; translating artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) activities into human understandable forms; and evaluation of the effectiveness of health care delivery reported through measures and instruments, including studies of government-sponsored health care quality improvement incentive payment programs.</p> <p>Dr. Roberts holds volunteer leadership roles with the HIMSS National Capital Area Chapter, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) (Standards Committee Member), and the American Council for Technology-Industry Advisory Council (ACT-IAC) (AI Working Group Publications Lead). He also engages in research and improvement activities with the American Academy of Nursing's Informatics and Technology Expert Panel and the National Quality Forum's Leadership Consortium and Strategic Advisory Committees.</p>

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Romano, Patrick	Health Services Researcher; Other Interested Parties (Measure Developer), Clinician	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Sacramento, California	<p>Dr. Romano is a physician-epidemiologist and health services researcher in the Divisions of General Medicine and General Pediatrics, the Center for Healthcare Policy and Research, and the Graduate Groups in Epidemiology, Clinical Research, Health Informatics, and Nursing Science at the University of California, Davis. His research and teaching interests focus on developing, testing, refining, and validating health care quality measures, using outcomes data to improve the quality and effectiveness of health care, and studying the role of physicians and nurses in optimizing quality and safety across the health care industry. He currently serves as co-editor-in-chief of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Patient Safety Network (PSNet), a national web-based resource featuring the latest news and essential resources on patient safety. He has published over 230 peer-reviewed papers on a variety of topics related to health care safety and quality and served on many expert panels and advisory groups related to health care quality measurement and improvement. Dr. Romano is a graduate of Princeton University, Georgetown University School of Medicine, and the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. He completed clinical training at University Hospitals of Cleveland, followed by fellowship training in health services research at UCSF.</p>

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Saseen, Joseph	Clinician; Other Interested Parties (Population Health Expert)	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Aurora, Colorado	<p>Dr. Saseen is the associate dean for clinical affairs, professor of clinical pharmacy, and professor of family medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus Skaggs School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. Previous roles include Department of Clinical Pharmacy vice chair (10 years) and PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency program director (25 years).</p> <p>As associate dean, he focuses on enhancing the school’s clinical enterprise, further developing sustainable clinical service models, and advocating for advancing the practice of pharmacy in Colorado. He is responsible for maintaining clinical partner relationships and overseeing international partnerships.</p> <p>As professor, he is a clinical pharmacist focusing on cardiovascular risk reduction and population health and teaches cardiovascular pharmacotherapy and other topics related to primary care. His scholarly work includes 200+ peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. He was the lead author for the American College of Clinical Pharmacy 2017 guideline on Clinical Pharmacists Competencies and a member of the 2018 American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology cholesterol management guidelines writing group.</p>
Sasson, Talia	Clinician; Facility/Institution	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	Rochester, New York	<p>Dr. Talia Sasson is a board-certified interventional and diagnostic radiologist, and since 2003 has been a faculty member in the Interventional Radiology division of the Imaging Sciences Department of the University of Rochester. Dr. Sasson is the head of the dialysis access service line in her division, and she has been a member of an interdepartmental dialysis access committee in her institute for 13 years. The committee is dedicated to improving dialysis patient outcomes in our community by identifying barriers to care and finding solutions to remove those barriers. Dr. Sasson is also a long-standing member of the Society of Interventional Radiology, and, over the years, has served on various society committees.</p>

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Spiegel, Thomas	Facility/Institution; Clinician; Other Interested Parties (Quality Improvement Expert)	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	Chicago, Illinois	Dr. Thomas Spiegel is the vice president and health system chief quality officer at the University of Chicago Medicine (UCM) and associate professor of medicine at the University of Chicago. Prior to his current role at UCM, he has served as both the interim section chief of emergency medicine and the ED's medical director since 2014. He also previously served as the American College of Emergency Physicians' chair of the Medical Director Section and previously served on their Patient Quality and Safety Committee. Prior to joining UCM, Dr. Spiegel had over 20 years of experience including serving as the vice president of business strategy and operations support for Marriott International, an analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank, and a consultant for the Small Business Administration. He holds board certifications in both emergency medicine and clinical informatics.
Thriffiley, Phoebe	Quality Improvement; Clinician	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Pass Christian, Mississippi	Phoebe Thriffiley has a great deal of operational and functional experience across the healthcare continuum from medical-surgical units to the emergency department to driving corporate level change. Healthcare is in a state of emergency and her experience touching many critical areas will be a benefit to the team as she embraces innovation, has awareness of the fragility of the bottom-line and remains loyal to driving positive patient outcomes.
Tilly, Jean-Luc	Purchaser/Plan; Other Interested Parties (Quality Measurement Expert)	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2026	Washington, D.C.	Mr. Jean-Luc Tilly joined The Leapfrog Group in 2020 and works directly with experts and stakeholders to identify new opportunities for measurement, and coordinates activities of Leapfrog's public reporting and rating programs. He leads the Recognizing Excellence in Diagnosis program as well as Leapfrog's efforts to identify new measurement opportunities in hospital billing practices and the informed consent process. Before joining Leapfrog, Mr. Tilly served for 5 years as a senior project manager at the National Quality Forum (NQF), focusing on NQF's project to improve diagnostic safety and quality and the Measure Applications Partnership with CMS to review measures for federal reporting programs.

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Venkatesh, Arjun	Health Services Researcher; Clinician; Other Interested Parties (Measure Developer)	Recommendation	10/2023-9/2025	New Haven, Connecticut	Dr. Arjun Venkatesh is chair and chief of emergency medicine at Yale University School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Health. He is a nationally recognized quality measurement and improvement leader as principal investigator of the ACEP Emergency Quality Network (E-QUAL) and scientist at the Yale Center for Outcomes, Research and Evaluation. He has received over \$12 million in funding from the National Institute of Health, CMS, AHRQ, and CDC to study and develop measures and interventions that improve acute care outcomes and efficiency. He has supported CMS's development of over a dozen national quality measures including the CMS Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings, and he has led the development of over 20 quality measures for the ACEP Clinical Emergency Data registry. His work has resulted in over 200 peer-reviewed publications and federal reports as well as the implementation of numerous national health care quality and value programs.
Venugopal, Usha	Health Equity Expert; Clinician; Facility/Institution	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	New York, New York	Dr. Usha Venugopal is a practicing academic hospitalist working in an inner-city community hospital. Dr. Venugopal's interest in quality improvement (QI) began as a way to teach QI to internal medicine residents as the then associate program director in internal medicine.

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Weinhandl, Eric	Health Services Researcher; Other Interested Parties (Quality Improvement Expert)	Advisory	10/2024-9/2027	Victoria, Minnesota	Eric has more than 20 years of experience in chronic kidney disease research, with a focus on chronic dialysis. He currently works for DaVita Clinical Research as the vice president of epidemiology. His research interests comprise the benefits and risks of home dialysis; strategies to increase the utilization of home dialysis; the pharmacoepidemiology of chronic kidney disease; the role of clinical pharmacy in chronic disease management; evaluation of the quality of nephrology care; Medicare policy; and quantitative methods for the control of confounding in comparative effectiveness research with observational data. He has extensive knowledge about the pathophysiology of hypertension, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation in end-stage kidney disease, as well as the efficacy of cardiovascular medication in chronic kidney disease. He also has a deep understanding of the Medicare program, including coverage and payment policy and the structure of claims and assessment data. Through his research, academic appointments, and professional experiences in industry settings, he has many years of experience with quality improvement programs and believes that attention to detail (e.g., measure specifications), insistence on validity and high reliability, and consideration of unintended consequences are all crucial to successful implementation of quality measures.
Young, Janice	Facility/Institution; Clinician; Other Interested Parties (Quality Improvement Expert)	Advisory	10/2023-9/2026	Ocala, Florida	Dr. Janice Young has over 30 years of nursing experience, focusing on improving care and connection to the patient. Her search to enhance health care begins with communication and connections to all patients, understanding how the patient's goals intersect with the health care team's goals. She has been part of the quality team reviewing and implementing quality measures for 15 years. Her focus is improving care for the elderly and finding solutions for this underserved and often misunderstood population.

