The National Quality Forum (NQF) is a US-based, non-profit membership organization that promotes patient protection and healthcare quality through measurement and public reporting. Members consist of health-care organizations including hospitals, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, health professionals, community/public health organizations, and consumer and purchaser groups, among others. As of January 2016, over 430 organizations were members of the NQF.

The NQF’s primary activity is the endorsement of health care ‘consensus standards’ including performance measures, best practices, and frameworks. NQF has historically played a role in the creation of national quality strategies, convening consensus bodies to propose recommendations of measures for federal programs through the Measures Application Partnership (see box to the right).

Measures are reviewed and endorsed through a formal procedure called the Consensus Development Process (CDP). The CDP consists of 8 steps which include selection of a standing committee and technical advisory panel (if necessary), in-depth measure review using standardized criteria, public comment period, member voting and a final review and decision by the NQF Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC) and NQF Board of Directors. As of January 2018, over 1,000 measures were listed as ‘currently endorsed’ by the NQF, of which 179 directly relate to the health of children.