

## Healthcare Quality Leaders Join Forces

Two key health care quality alliances, the AQA alliance and the Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA), have formed a new national Quality Alliance Steering Committee to better coordinate the promotion of quality measurement, transparency and improvement in care. Through the joint efforts of the AQA an alliance of 135 physician organizations, consumers, employers and health plan representatives that makes available quality information about physician care &ndash; and the HQA &ndash; a coalition of hospitals, nurses, physician organizations, accrediting agencies, government, consumers and business that shares quality information about key aspects of hospital care &ndash; Americans will have helpful information on health care available through the Internet.

The new steering committee will work closely with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), which are key members of both the AQA and HQA. As a first step, this new steering committee will coordinate and expand several ongoing pilot projects that are designed to combine public and private information to measure and report on performance in a way that is fully transparent and meaningful to all stakeholders.