

## FOCUS - Q1 2018

Newsletter of the American College of Medical Quality



**FOCUS**  
ACMQ's e-newsletter

— AMERICAN COLLEGE OF —  
**Medical Quality**

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### [President's Message: Join Us for MQ 2018](#)

**Mark Lyles, MD, MBA, FACMQ**  
ACMQ President (2017-2018)



I invite you to register for the College's next annual meeting, [Medical Quality 2018 \(MQ 2018\)](#), themed "Improving Population Health Through Health Equity and Patient Advocacy." The conference returns to Washington, DC's historic Mayflower Hotel from April 12-14, 2018, and will feature dynamic sessions that focus on late-breaking issues in the diverse and rapidly growing field of medical quality management, including emerging trends in quality research, professional advancement, quality improvement tools, change management, and much more.

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### [Are We Asking the Right Questions?](#)

**Jack L. Cox, MD, MMM**  
SVP / Chief Quality Officer  
Providence St. Joseph Health



*"Knowledge is having the right answer. Wisdom is having the right question." - Author Unknown*

Measuring quality, safety, and patient experience has always been challenging in large part because of the different thoughts as to what we should be measuring. A public repository set up by the National Quality Measures Clearinghouse has over 4,600 quality measures and measure sets. Many of these metrics are driven by specialty groups, government agencies, and other regulatory bodies, but few are driven by the patients we care for. How do we get our arms around this dilemma?

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## Improving Population Health Through Health Equity and Patient Advocacy

The Mayflower | Washington DC | April 12-14, 2018

### Editorial: Be Careful What You Wish for

**Gregory R. Wise, MD**  
Editor, *FOCUS*  
Kettering Medical Center System



As we try to put health care quality into perspective, how do we isolate ourselves from the "distractions" of nuclear war brinkmanship in North Korea, our exploding national debt, the impending next mass extinction, Russian interference in elections, wealth inequality and redistribution, increasing terrorism, natural disasters of hurricanes and wildfires, and senatorial races in Alabama? Arguably these and other distractions may have more to do with achieving quality than we would like to think.

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### When Words and Actions Matter Most: Responding to Patient Harm

**Timothy McDonald, MD, JD**  
Director for the Center for Open and Honest Communication at  
the MedStar Institute for Quality and Safety  
Professor of Law at Loyola University, Chicago



Disclosure and apology after medical error emerged in the 1990s as a public policy goal and a risk management strategy. Two decades later, best practices in patient safety and medical liability have evolved from delay, deny and defend into communication and resolution programs (CRPs) with a paradigm shift in the response to unexpected patient harm. CRPs are comprehensive, principled, and systematic approaches to the prevention and response to patient harm. The hallmark of an effective CRP is the creation of a learning environment thru rapid capture and identification of patient safety events; open, honest and ongoing effective communication with patients and families;

provision of immediate emotional first aid to the care team; human factors-based process redesign and improvement, and early offers of resolution for inappropriate care.

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**TIME'S RUNNING OUT!**  
Don't let your member benefits lapse.  
ACMQ membership **expires February 1st**  
for those who have not renewed.



**RENEW TODAY!**

## [Become Certified in Medical Quality; Facts about the CMQ Exam](#)

The [American Board of Medical Quality](#) (ABMQ) offers a two-hour certifying examination to physicians and to eligible healthcare professionals with experience in medical quality management and/or clinical quality improvement. Successful candidates are granted the CMQ (Certified in Medical Quality) designation, based on their credentials and exam performance. International candidates are welcomed and many have earned the CMQ. Details about the exam, study materials and eligibility criteria are on the [ABMQ exam website](#).



### **Exam Content...**

The exam tests knowledge of quality basics, quality measurement, patient safety, utilization management, health IT, economics and finance, organization management, legal and ethical issues, and more.

### **Where and When...**

In addition to Abu Dhabi and Houston, the 2018 exams will be offered on Sunday, April 15, 2018 at the [Mayflower Hotel](#) in Washington, DC, after the conclusion of the MQ 2018 annual meeting.

### **How to Prepare...**

Register for ACMQ's [Quality Improvement Workshop](#), a preconference session offered before the start of the MQ 2018 annual meeting.

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## [Register for February's Webinar: What Every Quality Leader Should Know about Information Technology](#)

The stone age didn't end from the lack of stones. It is time to empower clinical quality leaders with tools beyond clipboards and stopwatches. The ACMQ Education Committee invites you to register and join us on Thursday, February 15, 2018, at 12:00 pm EST, for our free, one-hour webinar, "What Every Quality leader Should Know about Information Technology." Join Paul Nagy, PhD, FSIIM, Deputy Director, Johns Hopkins Medicine Technology Innovation Center, as he lays out an innovative framework to: identify how to mitigate IT patient safety risks; be proficient in leveraging an EMR for data collection and analysis; and harness IT as an intervention in improving patient care.



[Register Now](#)

### QUALITY LINKS

## [Cancer Death Rate Has Declined in US, Report Indicates](#)

*AMA Morning Rounds (1/5/18)*

According to the [Washington Post](#) (1/4, McGinley) in "To Your Health," a report from the American Cancer Society (ACS) indicates the US' "overall cancer death rate declined 1.7 percent in 2015." The data indicate that "overall, the cancer death rate has dropped from 215.1 per 100,000 population in 1991 to 158.6 per 100,000 in 2015."

On its website, [NBC News](#) (1/4, Fox) reports, "More than 2.3 million people have not died of cancer since 1991 who otherwise would have if cancer rates had remained unchanged... said" the ACS.

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## [Marijuana Could Cause Brain Damage in Teenagers, Doctors Warn](#)

*Newsweek (1/4/18, Dana Dovey)*

This month California is on track to legalize the use of marijuana for adults aged 21 and older, but last week state health officials issued a public warning that the drug may still be

dangerous for underage users. According to the official warnings, evidence suggests the drug could damage still developing brains, and therefore should not be used by minors.

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## [CMS Rolls Out New Reporting System for Quality Payment Program](#)

*AMA Morning Rounds (1/4/17)*

[Modern Healthcare](#) (1/3, Castellucci, Subscription Publication) reports the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced Tuesday that it implemented this week a new data submission system for physicians and other clinicians who participate in the Quality Payment Program. Under the new system, instead of inputting MACRA data through "multiple websites," they can use just the Quality Payment Program website.

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## [CVS-Aetna and Optum-DaVita Deals Take Aim at Costly Hospital Care](#)

*Modern Healthcare (12/9/2017, Shelby Livingston)*

The billion-dollar deals between CVS Health and Aetna, and UnitedHealth and dialysis giant DaVita's physician group take aim at healthcare spending by attempting to shift patient care away from costly inpatient facilities. While that may benefit patients, hospitals are left in the crosshairs.

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## [By the Numbers: Tenfold Increase in Childhood Obesity Since 1975; U.S. Among Highest Rates Worldwide](#)

*MedPage Today, LLC (10/11/17, Matt Wynn)*

The number of obese children worldwide is up more than tenfold since 1975, from 11 million to 124 million last year, according to a new study published in [The Lancet](#).

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## [Physicians, Patients Define High-Value Care Differently](#)

*Modern Healthcare (12/8/17, Maria Castellucci)*

Patients and physicians differ in their definition of high-value care, a new survey finds, with patients favoring affordability and convenience while physicians think relationships with patients and outcomes are most important to achieve high-value care.

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## [Hormonal Contraceptives May Increase Breast Cancer Risk, Study Shows](#)

*AMA Morning Rounds (12/7/17)*

ABC World News Tonight (12/6, story 13, 0:25, Muir) reported on a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine finding that "women who use hormonal" contraceptives "for more than a year are at a 20 percent higher risk for breast cancer," though "the overall risk remains low."

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## [FDA Approves Diabetes Drug that Also Helps with Weight Loss](#)

*Modern Healthcare (12/5/17, Associated Press)*

U.S. regulators have approved a new diabetes drug that reduces blood sugar levels and also helps people lose weight.

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## [USA TODAY Investigation: VA Knowingly Hires Doctors with Past Malpractice Claims, Discipline for Poor Care](#)

*USA TODAY (12/3/17, Donovan Slack)*

A USA TODAY investigation finds the Department of Veterans Affairs has repeatedly hired healthcare workers with problem pasts, like neurosurgeon John Henry Schneider, whose license had been revoked after a patient death.

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## [CMS Trims List of Possible Medicare Quality Measures](#)

*Modern Healthcare (11/30/2017, Maria Castellucci)*

The CMS on Thursday released a list of 32 reporting measures under consideration for Medicare's quality reporting and value-based purchasing programs. The number of measures under review is much smaller compared to last year when CMS considered nearly 100 measures. The move is in line with CMS Administrator Seema Verma's focus on reducing

regulatory burden for providers. The agency recently launched the Meaningful Measures initiative to identify measures that will have the greatest impact on quality care improvement.

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## Support the AJMQ!



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