

* The Maine Quality Forum (MQF) was established in 2003 per 24-A Chapter 87 Section 6951 to monitor and improve the quality of health care in the State.
* The MQF has been involved in a number of initiatives over the years that support its legislative duties along with aligning with the needs of the market as it relates to advancing the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) triple aim.

1. Improving the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction);

2. Improving the health of populations; and

3. Reducing the per capita cost of health care.

* The MQF is an independent executive State agency that operates under the supervision of a Board of Trustees. The Governor appoints the members of the board and the Senate confirms. The MQF is part of the baseline general fund budget with an annual budget of approximately $1.3M
* Legislative Committee of oversight is the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services
* MQF drives health care quality improvement by working collaboratively with our private and public sector partners. MQF’s key initiatives over the last several years have been focused in the following six areas:

1. Support the advancement of primary care

2. Define, collect and report healthcare quality measures

3. Promote public transparency of health care quality in the State of Maine

4. Reduce the rate of Health Care Associated Infections in the State of Maine

5. Support the cost of patient experience surveys for physician practices and publically report the results

6. Promote culture of safety in physician practices

* The MQF is one of the four conveners for the States Patient Centered Medical Home Pilot and is responsible for the agreement (one of eight states selected) with the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the Multi-Payer Advanced Primary Care Practice (MAPCP) demonstration, which brought the Medicare beneficiaries into the PCMH pilot (both ended in December 2016). The MAPCP brought in over $15.8 Million in new money to Primary Care Practices participating in the pilot to support better ways to deliver more effective/better outcomes care.
* MQF is a member of the Medicare Proposal Oversight Committee (MPOC) a multi stakeholder group that was convened by the Commissioner of DHHS to develop a proposal for Medicare alignment with innovative payment models that currently exist in the state, to CMMI, according to CMS guidance. SIM Steering Committee and the SIM Maine leadership team will finalize.
* The MQF’s Maine Patient Experience Matters initiative was the first statewide survey of patients' experience in Maine. The website <http://www.mainepatientexperiencematters.org/>

provides information from the patients' perspective about the care they receive at adult primary care, specialty and pediatric practices across the State for two survey cycles (2012 and 2014). The website allows consumers to compare results across participating practices in the State. Our website also includes a Toolkit which provides practices with an easy-to-navigate list of evidence-based quality improvement strategies and related resources from literature to help improve performance for specific patient experience measure categories.

* In March 2016 we released a report title Maine Patient Experience Matters- Analysis of Patient Experience Over Time, 2012 and 2014 which can be found here: <http://www.mainepatientexperiencematters.org/resources.php>

The report contains an executive summary which summarizes the key findings of the initiative. Bottom line, over time, patient experience in Maine adult primary care practices significantly improved in nearly all areas between 2012 and 2014.

* The MQF is required to submit an annual report in collaboration with the Maine CDC on the state of Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) in Maine hospitals to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The 2017 report is expected to be released in April 2017. The 2016 Report can be found here: <https://mhdo.maine.gov/_externalReports/2016%20HAI%20Annual%20Report_Final%202016-03-31.pdf>
* HAI Collaborating Partner Committee: This committee is chaired by a representative from the Maine Center for Disease Control (Maine CDC) and the Maine Quality Forum (MQF). The Committee was established to assess and analyze the status of infection prevention and control in the state of Maine and make recommendations on state strategies for the reduction of healthcare associated infections across all healthcare settings. This committee began its work in 2015 and successfully submitted recommendations for the States HAI Plan 2015-2018. The membership of the committee and meeting notes and documents including the States HAI plan 2015-2018 can be found here: <https://mhdo.maine.gov/haiCPcommittee.htm>
* MQF recently released an eight-hour Healthcare Associated Infection program for extended care facilities which can be found here: <http://maineinfectionpreventionforum.org/> . The curriculum is divided into six stand-alone modules to be completed at the convenience of the participant. **Content areas include**: general infection control and prevention practices; common infectious diseases; Isolation/transmission precautions, surveillance and data collection; performance improvement, and antibiotic stewardship.  In addition to the stand-alone modules there is a comprehensive set of resources that have been organized by topic that are accessible to the facility.
* Commissioner Mayhew and MQF sent a joint letter to the heads of 103 nursing homes in the state where we introduced the new training modules.
	+ - Results of our second quarter report: 120 individuals (infection preventionists and Nursing Directors were the primary participants) representing 67 facilities are working through the training. Additionally, participants are asked if they would like to receive our 370-page Go-to-Guide which provides specific resources to facilities regarding HAI. Eighty two percent of program participants have opted to receive the binder as of the second quarterly report.
* The U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](https://www.osha.gov/index.html) awarded $10.5 million in one-year federal safety and health training grants to [77 nonprofit organizations](https://www.osha.gov/dte/sharwood/index.html) nationwide. The grants will provide training and education for workers and employers on the recognition, avoidance, and prevention of safety and health hazards in their workplaces.   Muskie School of Public Service is one of the grant awardee and in partnership with the Maine Quality Forum is developing two new modules for our HAI web-based training program on high-priority topics that address current long-term care worker health and safety risks:  **blood borne pathogens and biologic hazards.**

* In 2014 MHDO partnered with the Maine Quality Forum (as required by statue) to work on enhancing efforts on promoting the transparency of healthcare cost and quality data. With the support of two federal grants and several external partners a new website [www.CompareMaine.org](http://www.CompareMaine.org) was launched in the fall of 2015. CompareMaine reports the average cost for 248 health care procedures at 155 facilities by payer (top 5 commercial payers in the state, by facility). Additionally CompareMaine reports on several quality measures including patient survey ratings, preventing serious complications and preventing healthcare associated infections.
* Law requires MHDO to update the cost and quality information twice a year. In July 2016 MHDO launched CompareMaine 2.0 with updated cost data (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015). We added colonoscopies, digital mammograms and 28 other new procedures to this release; also added 8 new facilities and made several enhancements regarding functionality. In December 2016 we updated the quality data and released CompareMaine 3.0. As of December 2016 we have had just under 16,000 hits to the website.