

Minnesota Health Action Group

Key Coalition and Business Relationships

The information below provides an overview of some of the initiatives, coalitions and key business relationships in which Action Group staff participates to represent the collective voice of our members. For a more detailed list of the various committees and workgroups, [click here](#).

Minnesota-Based Collaboration

Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q)

Aligning Forces for Quality is a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded signature effort to lift the overall quality of health care in targeted communities, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and provide models for national reform. In 16 communities throughout the country, AF4Q seeks to improve the quality of health and health care by teaming up with those who get care, give care, and pay for care. The Minnesota Health Action Group was a founding member of the AF4Q initiative in Minnesota when it was launched in 2006, and staff sits on the Leadership Team that provides guidance for this multi-year initiative now embarking on its fourth and final round of funding from RWJF.

Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI)

ICSI is a non-profit organization formed in 1993 in direct response to the Action Group's (at that time the Buyers Health Care Action Group) stipulation that providers participating in their new preferred provider organization developed in 1992 have continuous quality improvement programs in place. Founding organizations were HealthPartners, Mayo Clinic, and Park Nicollet Health Services. Today, ICSI is a membership organization comprised of 55 medical groups representing about 85 percent of Minnesota physicians. The Action Group regularly participates in ICSI-sponsored initiatives.

Minnesota Community Measurement (MNCM)

MNCM is an independent non-profit community organization whose goal is to communicate fair, usable and reliable information about health care quality and cost to providers, health care purchasers, and consumers. Clinic-level performance data from MNCM is used in the Action Group's pay-for-performance program, Minnesota Bridges to Excellence.

Action Group staff represents the voice of the purchaser on MNCM's Measurement and Reporting Committee, as well as several committees working on a Total Cost of Care Measure.

MN Chartered Value Exchange (CVE)

In 2008, five Minnesota organizations signed an accord to form an alliance called the Minnesota Health Care Value Exchange. The alliance was established to support 1) health information technology, 2) quality improvement and measurement, 3) price transparency and public reporting, 4) incentives to promote high-quality, efficient care, and 5) consumer engagement and education.

The Minnesota Health Action Group was a founding member and currently serves as the Interim Director for the Minnesota CVE. Other members include: the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement, Minnesota Community Measurement, the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services, and Stratis Health. Nationally, there are 24 Chartered Value Exchanges supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). AHRQ offers a compendium of tools and resources to support initiatives of the CVEs.

Nationally Based Collaboration

National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH)

The Minnesota Health Action Group has been an active member of The National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH) since its inception in 1992, with staff serving on its Board of Governors and Executive Committee for many years. NBCH is a national, non-profit, membership organization of 53 purchaser-led health care coalitions — a “coalition of coalitions” — representing 7,000 employers and approximately 25 million employees and their dependents. NBCH and its members are committed to value-based purchasing of health care services through the collective action of public and private purchasers, and community health reform. NBCH seeks to accelerate the nation’s progress towards safe, efficient, high-quality health care and the improved health status of the American population.

National Council of Quality Accreditation (NCQA)

The National Committee for Quality Assurance is a private, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. Since its founding in 1990, NCQA has been a central figure in driving improvement throughout the health care system, helping to elevate the issue of health care quality to the top of the national agenda. NCQA’s programs and services reflect a straightforward formula for improvement: Measure. Analyze. Improve. Repeat. NCQA makes this process possible in health care by developing quality standards and performance measures for a broad range of health care entities. Action Group staff represents the interest of purchasers on NCQA Standards Committee.

National Quality Forum (NQF)

The National Quality Forum is a nonprofit organization that operates under a **three-part mission** to improve the quality of American health care by:

- Building consensus on national priorities and goals for performance improvement and working in partnership to achieve them;
- Endorsing national consensus standards for measuring and publicly reporting on performance; and
- Promoting the attainment of national goals through education and outreach programs.

NQF’s membership includes a wide variety of health care stakeholders, including consumer organizations, public and private purchasers, physicians, nurses, hospitals, accrediting and certifying bodies, supporting industries, and health care research and quality improvement organizations. NQF’s unique structure enables private- and public sector stakeholders to work together to craft and implement cross-cutting solutions to drive continuous quality improvement in the American health care system. Action Group staff has been selected to serve on the Consensus Standards Approval Committee and the Cost and Resource Use Steering Committee.