

December 6, 2010

National Quality Forum
601 13th Street, NW
Suite 500 North
Washington, DC 20005

To Whom It May Concern,

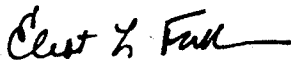
With the recent passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and recent health care legislation, it will be essential that practicing physicians assess their performance through various quality measures. The National Quality Forum (NQF) has mandated that physicians utilize electronic health records (EHR) as well as meet certain quality standards in order to receive bonus payments over the next few years. Health care providers will ultimately be penalized for not using EHR and not complying with the quality measures being developed.

Over the past few years, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has developed the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI), a robust quality measure for patients seen in the offices of hematologists and medical oncologists. In addition, the American Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) and the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (ACOSOG) are developing quality measures for their respective practitioners.

QOPI is currently in use in over 300 medical oncology practices in the country. It is the leading assessment tool used by oncologists to benchmark the quality of care against other oncologists using standards set by ASCO. As President of the Pennsylvania Society of Oncology and Hematology, as well as the Division Chief of Hematology and Medical Oncology at the Lehigh Valley Health Network (the fourth largest cancer center in Pennsylvania) we recommend that the NQF adopt QOPI as the tool for assessing "Meaningful Use" in oncology practices in the United States. We also recommend adoption of the other "oncology specific" quality measures for those respective disciplines as ASTRO and ACOSOG implement their usage.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,



Eliot L. Friedman, MD
President