MISSION

We are dedicated to leading evidence-based, collaborative initiatives to improve the health of Louisiana residents.

VISION

We will be the recognized leader in driving fundamental improvement in health and health care in Louisiana.
The Quality Forum’s organizational framework is founded in the development and implementation of quality improvement and analytics programs. As the organization’s reach and focuses have expanded, the capabilities have also overlapped and combined to support health IT adoption and integration; quality reporting for the capture and measurement of patient outcomes; reductions in non-emergent utilization of EDs; practice transformation; and improved decision-making at the point of care.
ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD (EHR) ADOPTION & IMPLEMENTATION

Since 2010, the Quality Forum has administered the state's Regional Extension Center, helping eligible health care providers and hospitals to adopt, implement and meaningfully use EHRs. With this support, both groups have collectively received more than $116 million in Medicare/Medicaid EHR incentive payments through December 2015. The organization’s available services have evolved to include support for LaHIE integration, patient-centric care model transformation and provider education and outreach.

MEDICAID SPECIALIST/BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER OUTREACH

In partnership with the Louisiana DHH and with support from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Louisiana Medicaid provides health IT support services through the Quality Forum to providers who were previously ineligible for the Meaningful Use program to ensure the continued adoption and utilization of health IT across the state's health care settings.

PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

The Quality Forum worked with the Office of Public Health to assess, select and implement an EHR system for the state's 70 parish health units, which provide a variety of key services to more than 209,000 Louisiana residents each year. The new EHR system, which was operational in 2015, facilitates a streamlined care delivery process for patients while improving clinical workflows and reducing administrative burdens.

PRACTICE TRANSFORMATION

Since its inception, the Quality Forum has been committed to promoting the adoption of patient-centric care among Louisiana’s health care providers. Throughout 2015, Quality Forum consultants and coaches worked closely with 126 primary care and six specialty practices to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of care provided to patients. Support included assessments; on-site and virtual training; practice and workflow redesign; project management; and education/outreach. By year’s end, 32 practices had received formal recognition from the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

In 2015, the Quality Forum’s approach also combined health IT integration with practice transformation processes to further enhance EHR utilization and LaHIE integration with an emphasis on quality improvement. The organization also partnered with national companies in 2015 to provide practice transformation services to Louisiana physicians, leading the way to value-based health care.

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OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Since its inception, the Quality Forum has recognized its responsibility to inform and engage providers, patients, payers and purchasers with regard to key health care issues. In 2015, the organization focused its efforts to ensure that Louisiana health care providers and patients were armed with the knowledge, tools and resources necessary to drive improvements in care delivery and outcomes.

HEALTH CARE CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL
The organization established the statewide Health Care Consumer Advisory Council to support the inclusion of Louisiana’s patients and families as central members of the health care team. Members, which include representatives of key consumer-facing organizations, served as the voice of Louisiana’s health care consumers in the development of statewide strategies to empower patients and families in the use of health IT to improve outcomes, care access and care quality.

STATEWIDE PATIENT ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN
Your Health In Your Hands, a joint effort of the Quality Forum and the Louisiana DHH, launched in 2015. This effort positions Louisiana as one of the first states in the nation to conduct a statewide, direct-to-consumer, health IT education campaign. The campaign was designed to promote the use of health IT to improve the overall health of Louisiana’s residents and reduce health care costs, while at the same time, promoting healthy lifestyle decisions. By combining an integrated marketing, communications and outreach strategy with the partnerships of consumer-facing organizations, the campaign has touched hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents to date. In addition, it has garnered the support of providers, payers and purchasers as a key tool in driving consumer demand for health IT innovation. Please visit MakeMyHealth.me for patient engagement resources.

HEALTH IT ADVISORY COUNCIL
With the support of the Louisiana DHH, the Quality Forum also established the Health IT Advisory Council. This committee, comprised of providers, payers and purchasers, is charged with providing feedback to the state about issues such as health IT advancements and policies, payment reform, interoperability and data sharing.