



# Advancing Excellence:

Promoting Quality Health Care Through the  
CMS National Quality Strategy

Federation of American Hospitals - 6.11.2024

# Mission and Vision

## Mission

To achieve optimal health and well-being for all individuals.

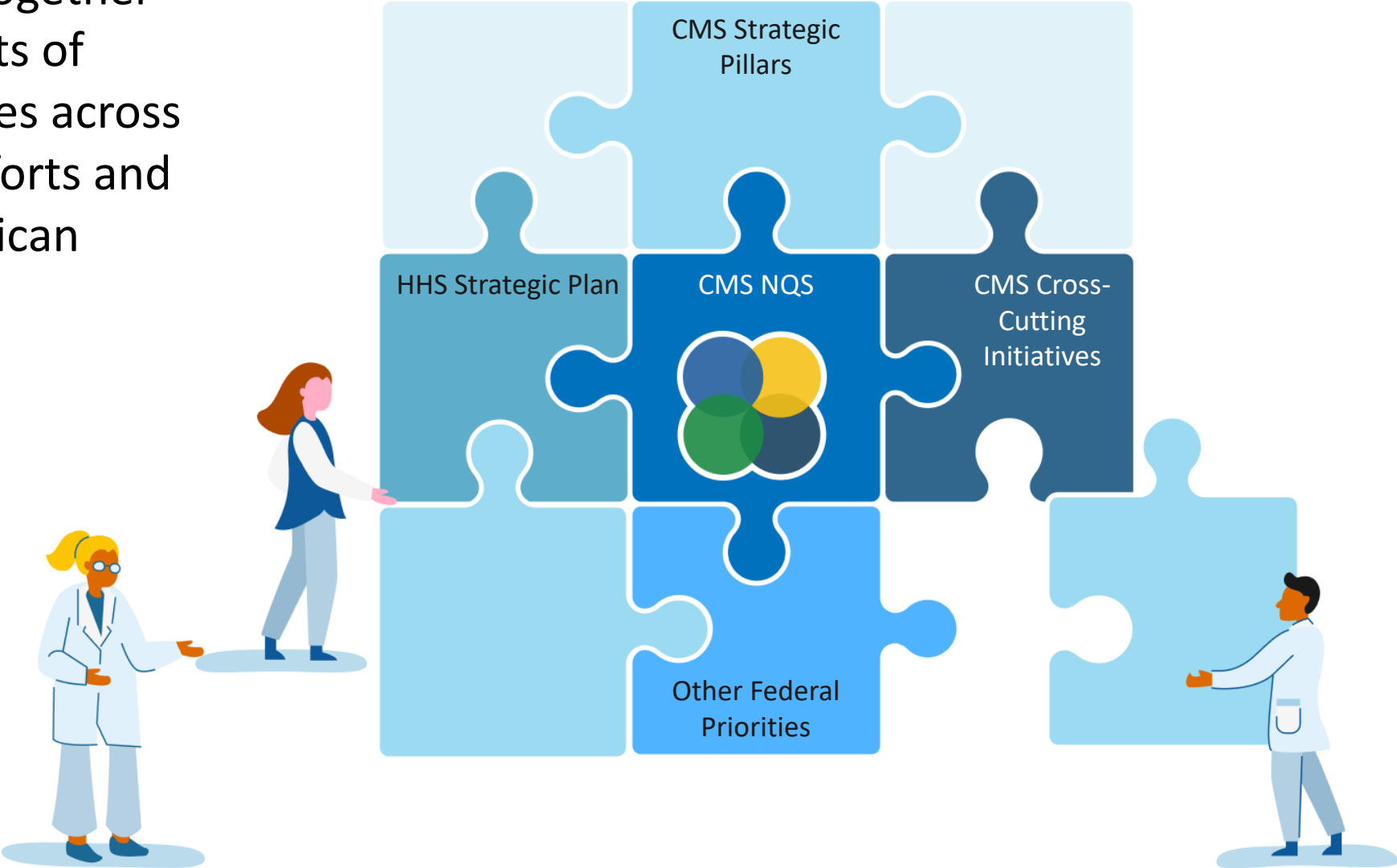
## Vision

CMS, a trusted partner, is shaping a resilient, high-value American health care system that delivers high-quality, safe, and equitable care for all.



# The CMS NQS Is Part of a Larger Strategy to Improve Health Quality

The CMS NQS brings together the quality components of strategies and initiatives across the Agency to align efforts and better serve the American public.



# CMS National Quality Strategy Goals

The Eight Goals of the CMS National Quality Strategy are Organized into Four Priority Areas:



### Equity

Advance health equity and whole-person care



### Engagement

Engage individuals and communities to become partners in their care



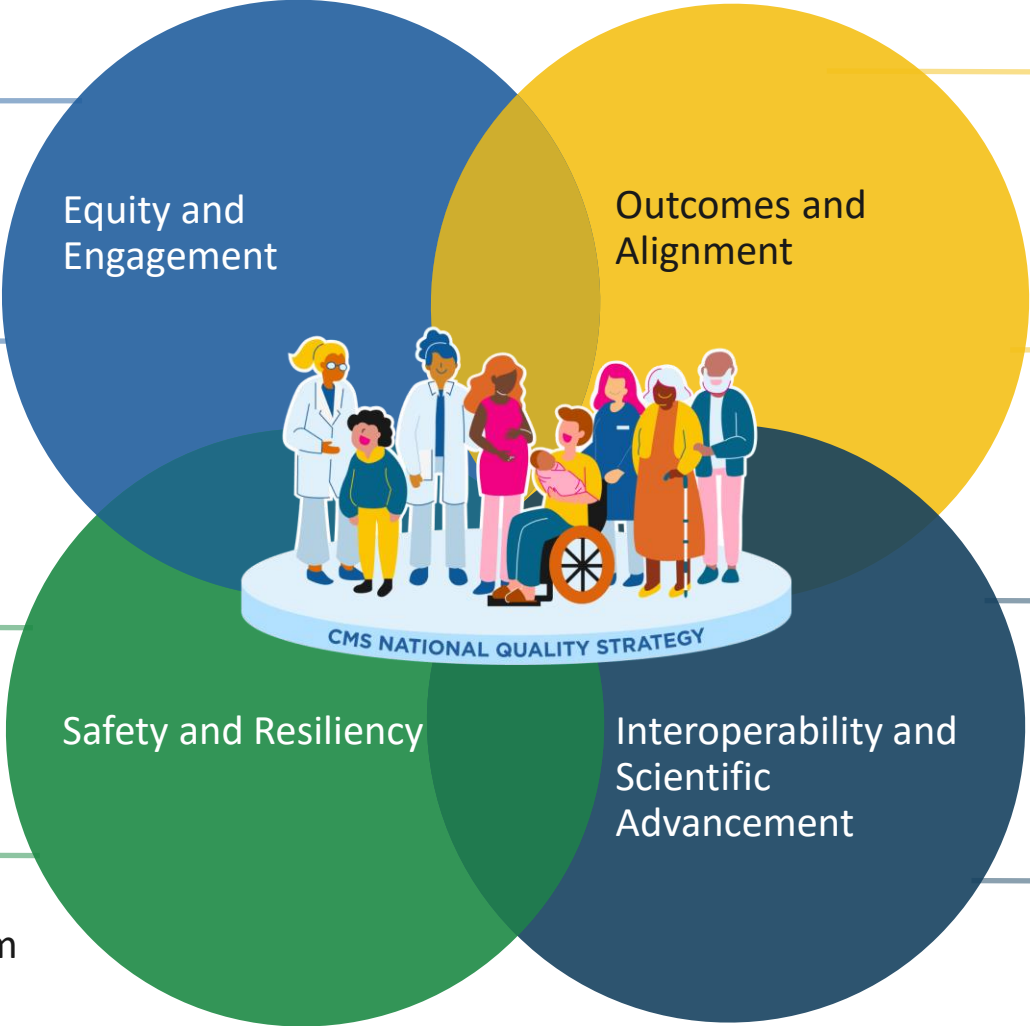
### Safety

Achieve zero preventable harm



### Resiliency

Enable a responsive and resilient health care system to improve quality



### Outcomes

Improve quality and health outcomes across the care journey



### Alignment

Align and coordinate across programs and care settings



### Interoperability

Accelerate and support the transition to a digital and data-driven health care system



### Scientific Advancement

Transform health care using science, analytics, and technology



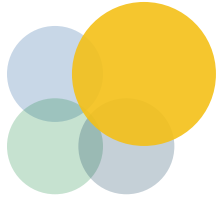
# CMS Uses All Available Levers to Promote High-Quality, Safe, and Equitable Care for All





# NQS Goals and Objectives



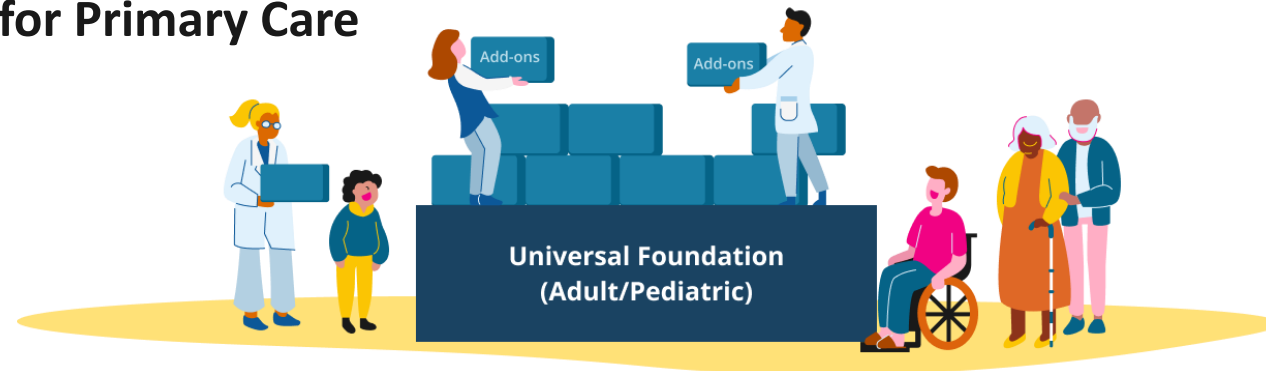


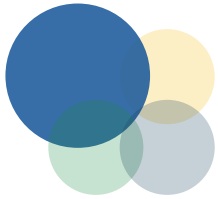
# Focus Area 1: Outcomes and Alignment

## Spotlight: Universal Foundation Accomplishments

- The [Universal Foundation](#) is a streamlined set of quality measures to advance the vision of the CMS National Quality Strategy and increase alignment across CMS quality programs
- Initial Adult and Pediatric measures sets announced in 2023
- Additional measure sets for specific settings or populations identified as “add-ons” including:
  - Maternity Care
  - Hospital
  - PAC/LTC

**Universal Foundation measures have been implemented in Medicaid Adult and Child Core Sets, Marketplace Quality Rating System, Part C and D Star Ratings, Medicare Shared Savings Program, and MIPS Value Pathway for Primary Care**





## Focus Area 2: Equity and Engagement

# Spotlight on Health-Related Social Needs

- [Rewarding Excellence for Undeserved Populations \(REUP\)](#) promotes equity in quality and value-based programs by incentivizing excellent care without lowering standards
- Adult [Universal Foundation](#) set includes social drivers of health (SDOH) screening measures that are adopted in quality reporting programs for several settings and clinicians
- [Health-Related Social Needs \(HRSN\) framework](#) provides a guide to allowable services under Medicaid 1115 demonstrations and other Medicaid & CHIP authorities
- [Advance Investment Payments \(AIP\) in the Medicare Shared Savings Program](#) and [Making Care Primary \(MCP\) model](#) include incentives for HRSN screening and connecting patients to community supports and services
- [Community Resources](#) provide guidance on how to collect and use SDOH-related diagnosis codes and SDOH Z codes







## Focus Area 3: Safety and Resiliency

# Safety: Achieve Zero Preventable Harm

### OBJECTIVE

Improve performance on key patient safety metrics through the application of CMS levers such as quality measurement, payment, health and safety standards, and quality improvement support

### KEY ACTIONS TO DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN SAFETY AND REDUCE HARM

#### **Expand transparency to increase accountability for safety**

- Increase publicly reported quality and safety information to empower individuals to be critical partners in their care and encourage providers to improve care

#### **Drive improvements in safety through meaningful incentives, quality initiatives, and regulatory oversight**

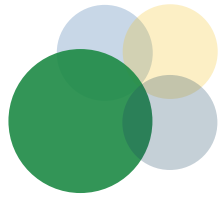
- Support efforts to promote a holistic safety culture to reduce harm and address system-level flaws

#### **Promote safety initiatives that protect the health care workforce**

- Provide oversight and technical assistance interventions to ensure a safe working environment

#### **Improve safe use and security of electronic health records (EHRs) and personal data**

- Facilitate patient safety by advancing the secure use of EHRs through technology requirements and incentive programs

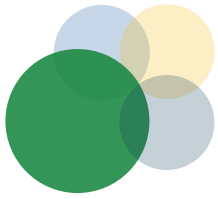


# Safety and Resiliency

## Spotlight: Health Care System Resilience for Safer Care

- CMS releases [draft 13th Statement of Work](#) for the [QIO Program](#):
  - Continues to focus on infection prevention and control, adverse drug events, and safety events
  - Directs resources to impact health care workforce challenges
  - Positions QIOs as the Agency’s “ready resource” to be deployed as needed
- National campaign to develop a resilient nursing home workforce:
  - Partners with Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and others to simplify career paths in nursing homes
  - Builds on actions through the [HHS Health Workforce Initiative](#), including the [HRSA Nursing Workforce Awards](#) to train more nurses and grow the nursing workforce
- Maternal and Infant Health Initiative works with states to improve maternal health outcomes:
  - Provides resources through the [Improving Postpartum Care Learning Collaborative](#) and [the toolkit on Increasing Access, Quality, and Equity in Postpartum Care in Medicaid & CHIP](#)
  - Recognizes hospitals committed to creating a culture of safety with the [“Birthing-Friendly” Hospital Designation](#)





## Spotlight: Key CMS Safety Levers

Safety  
Reporting

CMS'  
Measurement  
Portfolio

Technical  
Assistance

Conditions of  
Participation

Engagement

Public  
Reporting

Payment  
Policies

Safe Use of  
Technology



## Focus Area 4: Interoperability and Scientific Advancement

# Interoperability: Accelerate and Support the Transition to a Digital and Data-Driven Health Care System

### OBJECTIVE

Support data standardization and interoperability by developing and expanding requirements for sharing, receipt, and use of digital data, including digital quality measures, across CMS quality and value-based programs

### KEY ACTIONS TO PROMOTE INTEROPERABILITY FOR QUALITY EFFORTS

#### **Champion the standards and technology needed for interoperability**

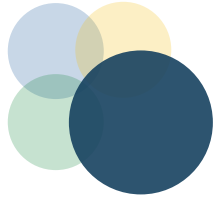
- Support care and improve quality through improving health data exchange

#### **Transition to digital quality measurement to advance interoperability**

- Reduce data collection and reporting burden while increasing available data to inform treatment and help prevent medical errors.
- Support the transition through incentives and program requirements

#### **Promote organizational shifts and collaboration for interoperability readiness**

- Partner with providers, communities and others to ensure information gathered at all points of the care ecosystem is being utilized



# Interoperability and Scientific Advancement Spotlight: Advancing Health Care



- [Digital Quality Measurement Strategic Roadmap](#) outlines plan to improve interoperability to fully leverage clinical and patient-centered information
  - Aids in measurement, quality improvement, and continuous learning
- [USCDI+ Quality](#), a [USCDI+ domain](#), supports CMS' transition to a FHIR-based quality reporting system
- Finalized [Transitional Coverage for Emerging Technologies \(TCET\)](#) pathway
  - Promotes an evidence-based, timelier approach to getting beneficiaries access to promising new technologies

# Call to Action



## CMS calls on partners to:

1. Prioritize the use of Universal Foundation measures.
2. Commit to improving health care safety and reducing harm.
3. Advance health equity to improve health outcomes and eliminate disparities.

*Together, CMS and its partners across the health ecosystem can put “**Quality in Motion**” and achieve the mission of optimal safety, equity, health, and well-being for all individuals.*

# Thank you!

## Quality in Motion

New publication now available



For the latest information on the CMS National Quality Strategy, see the [CMS NQS](#) and [Universal Foundation](#) websites. We welcome your feedback. Please send thoughts or questions to [QualityStrategy@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:QualityStrategy@cms.hhs.gov).

# Quality in Motion

Acting on the CMS  
National Quality Strategy  
April 2024

