**QUALITY STRATEGIES RESOURCES**

1. QUALITY STRATEGIES MODULES
   These learning modules are designed to educate practitioners on quality strategy trends. It's a four part series; parts 1 and 2 provide an overview on the National Quality Strategy (NQS) while parts 3 and 4 discuss the NQS impact on RDNs and NDTRs.

2. QUALITY RESOURCE COLLECTION
   The collection catalogs over 100 resources. RDN quality leaders identified and classified the resources for quality improvement in nutrition and dietetics practice. An appendix is included to assist educators and preceptors with student/intern competencies.

3. QUALITY LEADER ALLIANCE
   The alliance is a network of RDN and NDTR experts focusing on quality activities. Members work to educate credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners on quality management concepts and resources.

4. QUICKINARS
   Quality Leader Alliance members utilize virtual huddles to discuss quality initiatives. The 30-minute recorded Quickinars highlight the process and outcomes of successful implemented quality improvement.

5. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT EXAMPLES
   Real-world examples of quality improvement projects are presented as abstracts. By participating in organization quality teams and initiatives, RDNs and NDTRs enhance their knowledge and expand individual scope of practice.

6. GETTING STARTED WITH QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
   *Practice Tips: Getting Started with Quality Improvement* is a comprehensive step-by-step guide for RDNs and NDTRs to implement quality improvement in practice settings. The 7 steps review quality improvement basics, tools, case studies and Quickinars.

[www.eatrightpro.org/QualityStrategies](http://www.eatrightpro.org/QualityStrategies)
National Quality Strategy

At its core, the National Quality Strategy (NQS) concurrently pursues three broad aims and focuses on six priorities*

Three Aims:
1. **Better Care**: Improve the overall quality, by making health care more patient-centered, reliable, accessible, and safe.
2. **Healthy People/Healthy Communities**: Improve the health of the U.S. population by supporting proven interventions to address behavioral, social and environmental determinants of health.
3. **Affordable Care**: Reduce the cost of quality health care for individuals, families, employers, and government.

Six Priorities:
- Making care safer by reducing harm caused in the delivery of care.
- Working with communities to promote wide use of best practices to enable healthy living.
- Promoting the most effective prevention and treatment practices for the leading causes of mortality, starting with cardiovascular disease.
- Promoting effective communication and coordination of care.
- Ensuring that each person and family are engaged as partners in their care.
- Making quality care more affordable for individuals, families, employers, and governments by developing and spreading new health care delivery models.

Facts about the National Quality Strategy and What It Is Doing to Help Provide High-Quality Care for All Americans*:

1. Provides a framework to guide local, state, and national efforts to measure and improve health and health care quality.
2. Promotes quality health care that is focused on the needs of patients, families, and communities.
3. Moves the health care system to work better for doctors and other health care providers by reducing their administrative burdens and helping them collaborate to improve care.
4. Offers results of the latest evidence-based implementation efforts drawn from Federal and State agencies, local communities, providers, patients, businesses, employers, and payers.
5. Serves as an evolving guide for health care quality improvement, which is critical given the changing face of the health care.

What do You need to know now?
- NQS is a nationwide effort to improve health care
- The importance, strengths and limitations of quality measures
- The difference between structural, process and outcome measures
- Pay-for-performance initiatives and reporting changes that impact the RDNs
- Process improvement tools such as Lean, Six Sigma, Kaizen, TeamSTEPPS
- Quality measures are important to providers and consumers
- Key Organizations – NQF, NCQA, AHRQ, CMS, TJC, DNV, HFAP

Essential Elements for Successful Quality Improvement Strategy**:
- Foster and sustain a culture of change and safety
- Develop and clarify an understanding of the problem
- Involve key stakeholders
- Test change strategies
- Continuously monitor performance and reporting of findings to sustain the change

Opportunities for the RDN and NDTR:
- Certified Case Manager (CCM)
- Medical Services Manager / Care Coordinator
- Care Manager Certified (CMC)
- Process Improvement
- Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ)

Promoting the RDN and NDTR:
- Participate in and get involved during the public comments phase of quality measures
- Inform Academy of opportunities where the RDN’s and NDTR’s role can be included in quality measure development

Visit the Academy Quality Management Web Pages:
- Quality Nutrition and Dietetics Practice Resources; Accreditation Standards; Quality and Performance Improvement; National Quality Organizations
- www.eatrightpro.org/qualitystrategies
- Scope/Standards of Practice, State Licensure, Certification, Title Protection, Practice Tips, Case Studies, Definition of Terms, Scope of Practice Decision Tool
- www.eatrightpro.org/scope
- Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs) for Malnutrition
- www.eatrightpro.org/eMeasures

*http://www.ahrq.gov/workingforquality/toolkit.htm
**Hughes RG. Patient Safety and Quality: An Evidence-Based Handbook for Nurses. Rockville, MD: AHRQ; March 2008