

## Resources and Information

### National Quality Measures Clearinghouse to Feature Family Violence Prevention Fund Guidelines on Identifying Victims of Domestic Violence in Health Settings

In a significant advance for efforts to encourage health care providers to assess patients for domestic violence, the Family Violence Prevention Fund's *National Consensus Guidelines on Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence Victimization in Health Care Settings* have been accepted for inclusion in the National Quality Measures Clearinghouse (NQMC). The NQMC web site is sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; it provides a database with information on a limited number of evidence-based health care quality measures and measure sets. The site is designed to give the health care community access to key quality measures.

"We have been working for years to convince health care providers to assess patients for domestic violence and learn how to help those who are experiencing abuse," said Family Violence Prevention Fund Associate Director Debbie Lee. "Now one of our country's most prestigious health care agencies has featured our *Consensus Guidelines*."

A study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in August of 1999 found that less than ten percent of primary care physicians routinely assess their patients for partner abuse during regular office visits. The FVPF's *Consensus Guidelines* present a rationale for regular and routine assessment, and highlight the importance of culturally competent practice in addressing abuse. *Consensus Guidelines* also offer practical tools and resources, including reference guides, assessment tools, victim safety plan and discharge instructions, indicators of abuse, bibliographies, and a listing of resources and referrals – and help health care providers assess the impact of their assessment programs.

NQMC's mission is to give practitioners, health care providers, health plans, integrated delivery systems, purchasers and others an accessible mechanism for obtaining detailed information on quality measures, and to further their dissemination, implementation and use in order to inform health care decisions. NQMC builds on AHRQ's previous initiatives in quality measurement, including the Computerized Needs-Oriented Quality Measurement Evaluation System, the Expansion of Quality of Care Measures project, the Quality Measurement Network project, and the Performance Measures Inventory.

The Family Violence Prevention Fund's guidelines *National Consensus Guidelines on Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence Victimization in Health Care Settings* can be downloaded <http://endabuse.org/programs/healthcare/files/Consensus.pdf> or one copy can be sent if you contact [health@endabuse.org](mailto:health@endabuse.org) or by visiting our online store at <http://store.yahoo.com/fvpfstore/healthpractool.html>. To view the Family Violence Prevention Fund measures go to the National Quality Measures Clearinghouse website at [http://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov/whatsnew/whatsnew\\_archive.aspx](http://www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov/whatsnew/whatsnew_archive.aspx).