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Letters to the Editor

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Letters to the Editor

The ACOPM of the JCAHO

Dear Dr. Nash,

Many of us at NCQA read with interest the Jefferson Health System newsletter you kindly send us.

Imagine our chagrin to read in the September issue – in your article on JCAHO's ORYX:

"I believe the greatest future challenge to the ORYX initiative is its integration into other national quality measurement systems sponsored by such groups as CMS, NCQA, and the NQF. Outsiders unfamiliar with the performance world view the work of the JCAHO, CMS, NCQA and NQF as a confusing alphabet soup of groups promoting their own selfish measurement agendas. It will take strong physician leadership to rein in these organizations and have all of their horses pulling the quality cart in the same direction."

I won't comment on ORYX as a strategy for accountability, but I wonder why you felt it was appropriate to include NCQA in this commentary, especially since our only involvement in the hospital measures march of progress is as a member of the NQF Board.

As you know, NCQA has been actively involved with measure development and data reporting with HMOs for almost 10 years – and a guiding principle has always been to work with an array of constituencies, including the AMA, JCAHO and others, to develop consistent, coherent national measures.

We look forward to strong physician leadership in creating 21st century accountability. But I assure you that we are as concerned about an efficient, non-duplicative measurement agenda as you, and the other organizations you reference.

Thanks for letting me share these thoughts with you.

Margaret E. O'Kane

President

*National Committee for Quality Assurance
(NCQA)*

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