

**Quality of hospital care can be measured effectively and inexpensively if quality indicators are selected according to a four-step framework**

This article describes an improved method for developing quality indicators for hospital care. Under pressure to develop new ways to monitor and improve the quality of health care, hospitals and health systems are developing quality indicators, many of which are expensive to deploy and are ineffective. The authors propose a specific structured methodology in a four-step framework for the selection and validation of quality indicators for hospital care. This methodology is being used in a large, VA-sponsored study. *Hofer TP, Bernstein SJ, Hayward RA, DeMonner S. Validating quality indicators for hospital care. Joint Commission Journal on Quality Improvement. 1997; 23: 455-467. Contact: Tim Hofer, MD, (734) 930-5100, e-mail at [thofer@umich.edu](mailto:thofer@umich.edu).*