

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NCQA – National Committee for Quality Assurance
FACCT – The Foundation for Accountability
AHRQ – Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

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John Hochheimer NCQA,

HMOs FOCUS ON QUALITY OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE QUALITY

WASHINGTON, DC – October 4, 2000 — NCQA announces its endorsement of a new tool to monitor the quality of HMO care for sick children. NCQA – the National Committee for Quality Assurance, FACCT - the Foundation for Accountability and AHRQ – Agency for Health Care Research and Quality won approval today for the CAHPS® 2.OH Child Survey with a *new* Children with Ongoing Health Needs (COHN) Module. The decision was announced today at the annual meeting of the Committee for Performance Measures of the NCQA. The COHN Module offers new measures that provide information from parents of children 12 and under who have chronic conditions, about the experiences of their child's care. The Module is a major step forward in improving healthcare for children because it is the first methodology to broadly identify children with special health care needs allowing us to monitor the specialized health care they are receiving. With this information we can let families know which health plans are providing better care and help health plans identify opportunities for improvement. In a continuous effort to improve the quality of care for sick children the managed care industry will publicize the performance of health plans based on the new measures.

Changes from the previous survey include: an additional 30 items, the COHN screening tool, 4 new measurement domains, increased sample size, data collection and reporting every two years instead of annually, and scoring adjustments.

The COHN was developed under the auspices of the FACCT led Child and Adolescent Health Measure's Initiative's (CAHMI) Living with Illness Task Force and in collaboration with NCQA and with the CAHPS research team. The development of CSHCN has been funded largely by FACCT through grant support from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) provided funding for the CAHPS research team participation. The COHN Module is formally endorsed by the Advisory Committee of the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative and was recommended to NCQA for inclusion in HEDIS.

FACCT-the Foundation for Accountability-is a not for profit organization, dedicated to helping Americans make better health care decisions. FACCT creates tools to help people make quality-based decisions, develops consumer-friendly quality measures, supports public education about health care quality, supports efforts to collect quality data and monitors public policy. For additional information on the CAHPS® 2.OH Child Survey with the new Children with Ongoing Health Needs (COHN) Module contact Christina Bethell, PhD at (503) 223-2228, ext. 105.

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