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**Public Health**  
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April 12, 2010

Minnesota Department of Health  
Health Care Quality Measures  
healthreform@state.mn.us

Re: Standardized Quality Measures Addition Recommendation

Dear Minnesota Department of Health,

We appreciate your invitation to provide input into the establishment of the standardized set of quality measures for health care providers across the state. In our recent work with the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) in Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, and Wilkin Counties, we have been reminded of the devastating impact that obesity and tobacco use is having on individuals and society.

As stated in the September 17, 2007 article [Prevention in Minnesota - Background Information Prepared for the Health Care Transformation Task Force by Minnesota Department of Health staff](#), annual direct medical costs of obesity, physical inactivity, and tobacco use in Minnesota are high and account for significant percentages of overall health spending. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpsc/hep/transform/091707documents/preventionpaper.pdf>

Thus we strongly recommend that you consider the addition of two new standardized quality measures that focus on prevention and management of obesity and tobacco use. The first would be one regarding the *Prevention and Management of Obesity*, and the second would be one that addresses *Prevention of Primary Chronic Disease Risk Factors*.

We would refer you to the *Institute of Clinical Systems Improvement* (ICSI) and the work they have already done in these two areas. The ICSI website is: <http://www.icsi.org/>.

The link to the guideline regarding prevention and management of obesity is:  
[http://www.icsi.org/guidelines\\_and\\_more/gl\\_os\\_prot/preventive\\_health\\_maintenance/obesity/obesity\\_\\_prevention\\_and\\_\\_management\\_of\\_\\_mature\\_adolescents\\_and\\_adults\\_\\_.html](http://www.icsi.org/guidelines_and_more/gl_os_prot/preventive_health_maintenance/obesity/obesity__prevention_and__management_of__mature_adolescents_and_adults__.html).

The link to the guideline regarding primary prevention of chronic disease is:  
[http://www.icsi.org/guidelines\\_and\\_more/gl\\_os\\_prot/preventive\\_health\\_maintenance/chronic\\_disease\\_risk\\_factors\\_\\_p\\_rimary\\_prevention\\_of\\_\\_guideline\\_\\_23506/chronic\\_disease\\_risk\\_factors\\_\\_primary\\_prevention\\_of\\_\\_guideline\\_\\_.html](http://www.icsi.org/guidelines_and_more/gl_os_prot/preventive_health_maintenance/chronic_disease_risk_factors__p_rimary_prevention_of__guideline__23506/chronic_disease_risk_factors__primary_prevention_of__guideline__.html).

In our SHIP Healthcare Intervention we are working to support implementation of these two ICSI guidelines in healthcare settings in our four county region. Thus we are becoming quite familiar with these evidence-based guidelines, as well as the tragic gap in many of our healthcare settings between the guideline recommendations and reality.

We would be happy to work with a committee or work group to develop these two new standardized quality measures in the hopes of creating a healthier Minnesota.

Sincerely,

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