Appendix B

Choosing Indicators of Quality and Safety in Health Care

1. All indicators shall address at least one characteristic of quality:
    a. Safe,
    b. Timely,
    c. Efficient,
    d. Effective,
    e. Equitable,
    f. Patient Centered

2. We encourage indicators that are "national voluntary consensus standards" or recommended by national organizations such as Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, professional societies or government agencies.

3. Indicators shall fulfill as many of the following criteria as possible:
    a. Important
        i. Addresses a key leverage point for quality improvement
        ii. Meaningful variation exists within area being measured
    b. Scientifically Acceptable
        i. Valid
            1. *Construct*: the indicator measures what it purports to measure
            2. *External*: can apply measure across settings and conditions (e.g. different hospitals, different units, patient preferences)
            3. *Criterion-related*: can accurately predict related outcomes (e.g. process measure predicts patient outcome measure)
        ii. Reliable
            Stable over repeated measurements
        iii. Sensitive
            Correctly identifies when "condition" is present
        iv. Specific
            Correctly identifies when the "condition" is not present
        v. Uses appropriate risk adjustment
    c. Useable
        i. Can be used by stakeholders to make decisions and plan actions
        ii. Strategies for meaningful reporting exist
        iii. Can be used to draw meaningful conclusions
    d. Feasible
        i. Data collection methods are defined and when feasible, tied to care delivery
        ii. An auditing strategy exists
        iii. Confidentiality issues are addressed

      iv.   There is a reasonable benefit relative to burden of data collection (measure already being collected by applicants are assumed to meet this criterion)

4. Local indicators not receiving national endorsement are to be so labeled. To encourage innovation, such indicators are acceptable when they make up a minority of indicators in use in a single facility and meet appropriate parametric standards as outline in 3b above.