



Massachusetts Health Quality Partners (MHQP) is a coalition of doctors, patients, hospitals, health plans, government agencies, and other health care organizations working to improve the quality of health care in Massachusetts. To learn more go to www.mhqp.org.

Ways to learn more about quality health care:

- *Consumer Reports* is an expert, independent, nonprofit organization that works to ensure a fair, just, and safe marketplace for all consumers and empower consumers to protect themselves. Learn more at www.consumerreports.org.
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' *Physician Compare* website has information about Medicare-enrolled physicians and health care professionals <http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-doctor/>.
- The Massachusetts Board of Registry in Medicine is a state agency that allows patients to learn about their doctors or file a complaint. The website is www.mass.gov/massmedboard.

When patients have a good experience with doctors, they are more likely to come back for tests, take medications as prescribed, and better manage their care at home. Quality health care matters a lot to both patients and doctors.

—Michael Cantor, M.D., Chief Medical Officer of the New England Quality Care Alliance.

www.mhqp.org

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QUALITY HEALTH CARE:

How Patients Can Work with Doctors Towards Better Health



You want quality health care. Your doctor wants that, too. But is your health care as good as it should be?

Consumer Reports and *Massachusetts Health Quality Partners* (MHQP) teamed up to answer that question.

The best quality health care takes place when doctors — along with nurse practitioners, physician assistants, other clinicians, and office staff — work as partners with patients, family members, caregivers, and the public.

What does it mean to be partners in health care? That is when doctors and patients work closely together—talking about health problems, making thoughtful choices, and coming up with plans that patients can, and will, follow.



This brochure looks at many aspects of quality health care. It includes:

- Questions about how you and your doctor approach staying healthy.
- Results showing how many Massachusetts patients answered these questions.
- Boxes to check with your answers about quality health care.
- Ways that patients can partner with their doctors.

We hope that this helps explain some aspects of quality health care. For more information, visit MHQP's website www.mhqp.org.



