May 2025

TO ALL HEALTH PLANS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLEGENCE (AI) SYSTEMS, AND VENDORS OF AI SYSTEMS IN THE HEALTH CARE SPACE

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) invites you to apply to join a new working group exploring standards for AI system governance. NCQA will convene a select group of organizations to explore the responsible use of AI in health care quality and safety. All interested organizations may submit an application to participate as described in the attached Request for Participation (RFP): *AI Stakeholder Working Group*.

If interested, please submit your proposal at [AI Stakeholder Working Group Application](#) by June 9, 2025, at 5:00 P.M. (ET). Please direct any questions to AI@NCQA.org.

NCQA will notify successful organizations of acceptance by June 11, 2025. Any proposal received after the required time and date may not be evaluated.

REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION

AI Stakeholder Working Group ("Working Group")

I. OVERVIEW

NCQA is issuing this Request for Participation (RFP) to engage with industry leaders interested in joining a working group focused on the evaluation of artificial intelligence (AI) governance in health care quality. NCQA's goal for the Working Group is to understand how AI solutions are governed and their compliance with responsible use and health care standards.

Through the Working Group, NCQA will explore standards that can be used to evaluate the governance of AI in health care. Governance promotes responsible use of AI and ensures the system operates with transparency, safety, accountability and fairness, while mitigating risk to prevent harmful outcomes. Participants will be asked to provide samples of their own annotated/labeled processes to inform development of a comprehensive standard for AI governance evaluation.

NCQA intends to limit participation in the Working Group to 12 or fewer organizations. NCQA will retain complete independence and responsibility for development of any ultimate testing methodology, standards and requirements, including use of an expert panel to approve requirements if NCQA determines to offer a program to validate, certify, test or approve use of AI governance in connection with or independent of other NCQA programs. The Working Group will not serve as the expert panel for approval of requirements and will not have any right to approve or vote on any NCQA program requirements. Selected organizations are responsible for their own travel costs and expenses to attend and participate in the hybrid (in-person and via MS Teams) kick-off meeting in Washington, D.C.

Key Dates

- **Application Due:** June 9, 2025
- **Notification of Selected Organizations:** June 11, 2025
- **Kick-off Meeting:** June 25, 2025
- **Working Group Convened:** June 25, 2025–August 29, 2025
- **Pilot Program Phase:** September 2025–October 2025

II. BACKGROUND

NCQA exists to improve the quality of health care. With 35 years of experience, NCQA's reputation in quality assurance and deep expertise in developing health care quality measures and standards represent our unique position to influence the growing AI health care industry and foster trust among providers, payers and policymakers.

NCQA's Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) is the premier tool for monitoring the quality of health care. HEDIS was developed through a partnership between NCQA

and public and private organizations representing health care consumers and purchasers, health plans and health care services researchers. Over 235 million people are enrolled in health plans that report HEDIS results.

NCQA's Health Plan Accreditation builds on more than 30 years of experience to provide a current, rigorous and comprehensive framework for essential quality improvement and measurement. The use of HEDIS data allows NCQA Health Plan Accreditation to effectively measure care and service performance. This focuses attention on activities that keep members healthy.

NCQA Certification programs evaluate the systems and processes that support data collection, surveys and quality improvement to validate accuracy to support HEDIS reporting. NCQA's Measure Certification program validates organizations' HEDIS, "Align. Measure. Perform. (AMP)" and other quality measure logic to ensure production of accurate results. Accuracy is critical for health plans, provider organizations and other organizations that rely on quality measurement data to make decisions for quality reporting and inform value-based contracting.

As a leader in health care, NCQA is trusted to provide consensus-driven, non-partisan frameworks to evaluate quality in health care. With the rampant increase of AI integration into health care, organizations are seeking ways to ensure responsible and ethical use of AI solutions. NCQA is poised to influence how health care organizations, payers and vendors adopt and evaluate AI technology solutions by setting trusted benchmarks for fairness, safety and transparency.

NCQA will use the Working Group to convene stakeholders to promote governance that furthers the mission of quality care, improved outcomes and better health. NCQA will explore experiences and best practices that can be used to validate the governance of AI systems in both the vendor and health plan and system settings. The role of the Working Group is to inform NCQA staff, and any independent technical advisory panel selected by NCQA, on development of the program.

III. PARTICIPANT CRITERIA

Applicant organizations that meet the following minimum established criteria may be considered for participation in the Working Group.

Applicants will be accepted in one of two primary categories:

1. Organizations such as health systems and health plans that use one or more existing clinical AI technology solutions either provided by a vendor or developed in-house for their health care business. These applicants will share information regarding their use case for AI technology, selection process and use of AI.

2. Software vendors with existing clinical AI technology solutions, being used by one or more current clients. These applicants must be the developer or owner of the AI technology solution and not merely an authorized distributor of the technology. The governance of the applicant's AI solution will be evaluated against the monitoring and effectiveness standards developed for NCQA's pilot program.

IV. AI STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP

Expectations for Participating Organizations

NCQA's goal for the Working Group is to understand how AI systems can be evaluated for responsible governance through reviewing standards on AI infrastructure, lifecycle and monitoring. Participants in the Working Group will play an important role in helping NCQA explore AI technology and the need for programs that evaluate and monitor the use of AI in health care. Participants will be able to promote their role in the Working Group with joint media releases with NCQA and independently with NCQA-approved statements.

The role of the Working Group is to inform NCQA staff, and any independent technical advisory panel selected by NCQA, on development of the program, notably the construction of appropriate evaluation standards. Participants will be expected to share meaningful implementation experiences. Applicants must commit to participating in all activities and agree to secure funding for any travel or other related expenses associated with participation. Working Group members may be invited by NCQA staff to attend technical advisory panel meetings as non-voting observers.

Participants will share information about their AI technology governance with NCQA on a confidential basis. This will include information or robust samples of their own annotated/labeled processes to inform development of a comprehensive standard for AI governance evaluation. NCQA will not disclose to other participants or other organizations any proprietary information about an organization's AI technology shared with NCQA from participation in the Working Group. NCQA will use shared information to construct methods to evaluate each participant's AI governance as part of the pilot program.

Participants commit to having their AI governance evaluated by the protocols developed by NCQA, so long as NCQA determines that it can validate AI governance to support care quality, quality improvement and measurement.

AI Working Group participation is for informational purposes only. Participation will not convey to an organization an NCQA Validation/Certification, Evaluation/Pre-evaluation or other formal status for any NCQA evaluation programs or CMS reporting requirements. Participants must comply with NCQA policies on disclosure and conflicts of interest. Participants must recognize that NCQA will maintain our independence, objectivity and commitment to a quality result. Participants' preferences regarding program design, content or policies may not be reflected in the NCQA AI Governance Evaluation or Pre-evaluation program.

Participants are expected to attend a hybrid (in-person and via MS Teams) kick-off meeting on June 25, 2025, in Washington, D.C. and participate in as many as six webinars between June–September 2025.

Resources Provided by NCQA

NCQA will provide overall leadership of the initiative and facilitate active involvement by all participants, including:

- Host a hybrid (in-person and MS Teams) kick-off event to bring all participants together. NCQA will provide meeting materials and meals on-site; participants will provide for their own travel expenses.
- Host and facilitate ongoing Working Group calls via phone and video conference.
- Provide access to learnings identified.

Benefits of Participation

NCQA offers the following benefits for participation in the Working Group:

- Support this important initiative to rapidly advance the governance of AI technology in the health care space.
- Secure the opportunity to be one of the first organizations to gain NCQA AI Governance Certification and bring the benefit of that recognition to your organization.
- Credit as a participant on NCQA web site(s).
- Opportunity for recognition as an early adopter of any resulting NCQA AI Governance Evaluation and/or Pre-evaluation program.
- Ongoing technical support over the course of the Working Group.

VI. APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

An applicant must meet the Participant Criteria and demonstrate it has the experience and key personnel to evaluate its AI systems in health care that supports responsible use.

NCQA will evaluate applications under the following criteria:

- Completion of all required responses in the correct format listed below.
- The extent to which the applicant's technology meets the stated criteria as set out in this RFP.
- An assessment of the applicant's relevant experience with implementation of AI technology in accordance with the RFP specifications.
- An assessment of the applicant's skills and experience of key personnel as a participant on the Working Group.

Relevant Experience

NCQA considers the applicant's technical competence and experience in the development and implementation of clinical AI technology. NCQA reviews proposals for a thorough approach to quality assurance processes for ensuring accurate data processing. Applicants must demonstrate the capacity for and the nature of the quality control mechanisms that ensure accurate AI output.

Key Personnel

NCQA considers the applicant's relevant background and experience of key staff that will be invited to represent the organization in the Working Group. Key personnel must possess knowledge of the governance processes used for AI at their organization.

Additional Documentation

NCQA may request supporting documentation from applicant organizations. Proposals that do not comply with the minimum requirements outlined in this RFP will not be considered.

VII. INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE

NCQA will send invitations to selected applicants to join the Working Group on June 11, 2025. At the time of invitation, selected applicants will have the opportunity to accept or decline the participation terms. All Working Group members must sign NCQA's legal agreement for participation. If a selected applicant is not willing or able to agree to the terms of NCQA's participation agreement, NCQA is entitled to rescind the invitation and choose to invite an alternative participant to join. NCQA will announce the members of the Working Group in mid-June.

VIII. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Proposal specifications are as follows:

- A maximum of 5 pages of attached text.

Extensive appendices to an application are discouraged. Any supporting materials, other than CVs of key personnel, will be reviewed at the discretion of NCQA reviewers. Applications that merely restate the RFP will be considered nonresponses.

To facilitate review and evaluation, applications must be organized in the following format:

- Cover letter that specifies the legal name and address of the applicant, the name and contact information of the individual who is authorized to respond to questions from NCQA, and the name and contact information of the individual who is authorized to enter the formal participation agreement on behalf of the applicant, if selected. The cover letter can be attached to the online application.
- Information entered via online application:
  - Executive summary containing a brief description of the organization, including products where AI is used, how long the organization has been in business, and total revenues.
  - Description of the AI solutions and applications.
  - Description of the applicant's relevant experience in accordance with the criteria and specifications set out in this RFP.
  - Description of the applicant's key personnel in accordance with this RFP.

This RFP does not commit NCQA to pay costs of preparing and submitting proposals or for selection of an organization. In response to an application, NCQA may:

- Approve the proposal and invite the applicant to participate in the Working Group.
- Ask for additional clarification on the application.
- Decline an application.

NCQA may, at its discretion at any time, choose to discontinue this RFP without obligation to any prospective participants.