

What are the quality priorities of NC hospitals?

NCQC recently surveyed NC hospitals to ask about urgent priorities (next 12 months) and emerging priorities (next 2-3 years). Roughly half of NC hospitals responded and the results are summarized below. Respondents could choose up to five priorities.

Sepsis and readmissions are the key priorities this year. While sepsis drops in importance in subsequent years, readmissions was predicted to be the top priority in subsequent years. Many hospitals indicated they were focusing on all-payer, all-cause readmissions.

Top quality priorities in 2016	Top quality priorities over 2-3 years
Sepsis (cited by 82%) Readmissions (80%) Infections (71%) Efficiency/Cost (58%) Safety (44%)	Readmissions (cited by 60%) Efficiency/cost (60%) Infections (53%) Safety (44%) Sepsis (42%) eQMs (42%)

For infections, hospitals cited multiple infection types, including CLABSI, CAUTI, SSI and MRSA. A majority of hospitals called out CDI specifically as a focus. Safety concerns in the coming year were typically focused on specific events or measures (e.g., falls, PSI 90), where as goals over the coming 2-3 years tended to be described more broadly, e.g. “zero harm events.”

Overall, the survey shows some stability of priorities—specifically, readmissions, infections, and safety are priorities in the short and long-term. However, the survey also highlights emerging issues, e.g. eQMs, ACO quality metrics, and others.

Urgent and Emerging Priorities of Quality Directors at NC Hospitals

