



How ICSI Helps Patients

The Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) may not sound like something that can impact your health. But ICSI is a driving force in ensuring that you receive the right medical treatment at the right time in the right place and at an affordable price.

ICSI has been improving the quality and value of the health care you receive since being formed as a non-profit, independent organization in 1993 by HealthPartners, Mayo Clinic and Park Nicollet Health Services. Today, ICSI has more than 50 medical group and hospital members representing 9,000 physicians, and is sponsored by six non-profit Minnesota health plans.

Our mission is to effect real change in the health care system that results in quality and affordable care for the patient. We live this mission by uniting providers, health plans, employers,

patients and government agencies to find solutions to health care issues that no single group can solve alone.

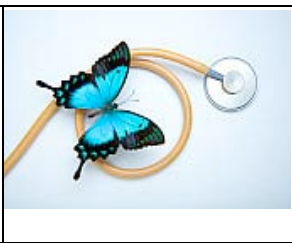
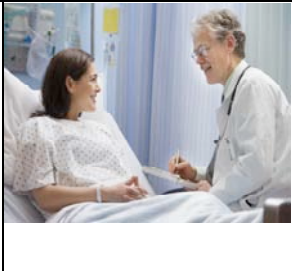
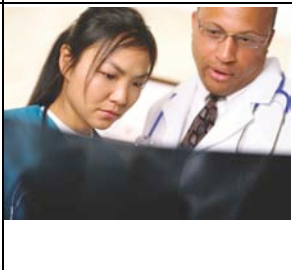
We're able to solve these issues because ICSI's member groups and health plan sponsors trust our collaborative process. It's built on the shared belief that quality trumps competition—working together to improve quality is the right thing to do for the patient.



ICSI is often referred to as the “Switzerland of Health Care” because we provide a safe and trusted environment for diverse groups to air their differences and then forge common ground from which we can collectively improve patient care.

Here are examples of ICSI's activities that improve your health care.

ICSI Activities	Benefits to You
<p>Guidelines. We've developed guidelines for more than 40 diseases and health conditions through an exhaustive review process. Most Minnesota doctors follow these guidelines to ensure best patient results.</p>	 <p>Our guidelines provide you with unbiased, scientific information to make better decisions about your care. They show the best practices your doctor should follow to prevent, diagnose, treat or manage your health care issue.</p>

<p>Participation. ICSI includes patients in its collaborations with providers, health plans and employers so your views are heard and our health care solutions include patient input.</p>		<p>ICSI enlists patients in designing a better health care system. For example, patients helped ICSI develop DIAMOND, a better way to deliver and pay for the primary care of patients with depression.</p>
<p>Provider education. ICSI helps educate providers so they can improve their care. We help them establish cultures of quality, and train them how to reduce medical errors, or get you an appointment sooner.</p>		<p>Your health care experience is improved because ICSI helps ensure clinics and hospitals take your needs into account. We help reduce your frustrations. You have safer hospital stays because of ICSI implemented procedures.</p>
<p>Better Health/Lower Costs. ICSI tackles issues that improve your health and help keep health care costs in line. We use the best evidence to ensure the appropriate use of health care services.</p>		<p>A spike in CT and MRI use has not improved patient outcomes at the same rate. The possible overuse exposes patients to excess radiation and boosts costs. ICSI's is helping to ensure the right test is ordered, slowing health care cost increases.</p>

Let Us Hear From You

To transform the health care system so it better serves you we need patient input. Check out the activities we're involved in at www.icsi.org. Comment on them and/or tell us what other health care issues ICSI should tackle at info@icsi.org.

ICSI

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