Five Things Primary Care Providers Can Do to Improve Quality

1. **Get involved.** In the past, some systems that collected data on the quality of health care were flawed. To improve quality, we need physicians to help design a system that is fair, inclusive, and gets it right.

2. **Leverage performance measurement data to help you assess what is working in your own practice.** Most physicians do not have accurate, complete data on the care provided in their practices. Without measurement, it is hard for providers to know if the steps they are taking are as effective as they want them to be.

3. **Look for new ways to improve skills and provide better quality care.** Sharing performance data among providers often generates conversations about proven techniques that lift the quality of care.

4. **Emphasize patient engagement.** Educating patients to better manage their conditions can help them become better partners in their health and take responsibility for adhering to treatment plans and doctor recommendations.

5. **Focus on teamwork.** Care settings that are redesigned to encourage medical providers to work in teams, making better use of physician assistants, nurses, nutritionists, and dietitians seem to be the most successful in providing high-quality care, engaging patients, and ultimately improving health outcomes.