The American Burn Association (ABA) strongly endorses the promotion of quality outcome programs by federal, state, and private health care organizations. These efforts build on the ABA’s long-standing dedication to improving quality of care for the burn-injured patient. Our accomplishments, such as the Advanced Burn Life Support educational program, the Burn Center Verification process, evidenced-based Practice Guidelines, and the National Burn Repository, have focused largely on the structure and process of quality care. The ABA is now launching a national burn quality initiative that is validated and risk-adjusted to measure and improve burn and wound care outcomes.

An ABA Dashboard of Excellence: A New Burn Quality Improvement Program (BQIP)

Modeled after the American College of Surgeons (ACS) National Surgery Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) and the ACS Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP), neither of which address patients with burn injuries, BQIP will strengthen the ABA National Burn Repository of clinical data on acute burn care admissions.

By stratifying outcomes data according to unique burn-specific characteristics and risk factors, BQIP will allow the burn community to identify areas for clinical improvement, gaps in knowledge, and research opportunities. The ABA will update the National Burn Repository to include quality metrics and patient safety benchmarks in five clinical areas identified at the ABA’s Burn Quality Consensus Conference in February 2012: wound healing, resuscitation, nutrition, psychological outcomes, and functional outcomes.

The ABA proposes the following:

- Modification of the existing ABA National Burn Repository to incorporate key quality metrics on burn and wound care.
  - **Step I:** Hospital Acquired Conditions (“Never Events”)
  - **Step II:** Burn-Specific Outcome Measures
  - **Step III:** Patient Experience Survey Results
  - **Step IV:** Staff Satisfaction Survey Results
- Creation of an ABA Quality Oversight Panel to implement BQIP and to establish a format for benchmark reports on burn and wound care outcomes.
- A State of the Science Conference with key leadership from the burn community to formally launch BQIP.
- An annual BQIP Symposium on Burn and Wound Care Outcomes to allow participants to share successes, to identify areas for improvement in clinical care and education, and to determine future research needs in burn and wound care.
- Development of continuing educational programs for burn center and hospital registrars to improve data validity and reliability.

The ABA will work with the federal government and other key stakeholders to promote BQIP integration into a system of value-based purchasing that will enhance the quality of care provided to burn and wound patients.