

New Website Measures Metro Doctors

Fox 4 News

Meryl Lin McKeon

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<http://www.fox4kc.com/wdaf-website-medical-doctors-22410,0,6246577.story>

Video url: <http://www.fox4kc.com/videobeta/?watchId=9f865765-73f6-482d-860b-e9bf5505fd58>

KANSAS CITY - There's plenty of consumer information to help you buy a car or refrigerator, but much less for something that can be more important such as picking a doctor. But now, a new website that went online this week measures area medical practices.

The website is QualityHealthTogether.org. The site features humorous videos to help you ask the right questions of your doctor but also has serious data on more than 270 primary care practices in the metro.

Want to know how one group measures locally and nationally on diabetes care? It's there. Or whether their patients are getting mammograms when they should, or if the doctors are not ordering imaging tests for low back pain.

"Most back pain will resolve without an x-ray, so that measure, the higher means they have not done x-rays or MRIs," Cathy Davis with KC Quality Improvement said.

Kansas City is the 11th US city to have these measures online, all of it funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Dr. John Stanley of Briarcliff Medical said many doctors aren't happy about this new scrutiny.

"Medicine's more than just numbers," Dr. Stanley said. "There's a lot of other ways to practice good medicine. And because you haven't done a test doesn't mean you haven't talked that over with the patient or the patient has refused it."

Dr. Stanley also said the data comes from insurance claims, which may not accurately reflect whether a patient really had a test.

"It's basically the only data we have access to," Davis said.

Davis said Quality Health Together is not about embarrassing doctors, but instead making doctors and patients better partners.



| 6000 N Oak, Ste. 300, Kansas City, MO |
| Ph: 816.453.4424 | Fax: 816.453.4107 | www.kcqic.org |

"The more we learn about quality, the more we ask questions, the more we get better care, the more we care for ourselves better," Davis said.

The website has a separate section of patient ratings of their doctors, and that data came out last year. There's also medicare comparisons of metro hospitals.

For more information on how over 270 metro medical practices rank, check out qualityhealthtogether.org from the Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium (KCQIC).

