The U.S. population is aging rapidly with over 10,000 people becoming Medicare eligible every day. By 2030, the number of Medicare enrollees is expected to double to approximately 80 million individuals – many of whom will experience advanced illness in later life. To address this need as effectively as possible, we must measure and monitor the quality of advanced illness care over time.

We created the ACT IndexSM as a tool to accelerate progress toward the 2030 goal by:

- Tracking national and state measures of success (e.g., best state for care)
- Supporting advocacy to fill gaps, where additional data and measures are needed (e.g., patient/family voice) and
- Building best-practices that states can use to improve their performance.

Examples from the Field: Arizona

C-TAC is collaborating with organizations on the ground in Arizona, with support from the David and Lura Lovell Foundation on a three-year project to analyze the quality of serious illness care in the state, using the ACT Index. This will lead to the creation of a best practices library which can drive improvements and innovation in care.

"[The C-TAC ACT IndexSM] will give us the opportunity to peel the onion and identify where our big opportunities are."
- Sandy Severson, Vice President of Care Improvement
  Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

Putting Data to Work for Patients

Partnering with Discern Health, C-TAC has produced a report detailing evidence-based strategies for improving state-level performance on the advance care planning measure of the ACTSM Index. By studying the Index results and identifying what is and isn't working for patients and their loved ones, we can help states ensure that advance care planning conversations are happening and that wishes expressed during these discussions are documented and honored.
What’s needed to advance the ACT Index℠?

- Data on Patient and family experience during serious illness to establish a baseline and track progress over time
- Further research to determine the most important, impactful measures and best practices in moving those measures
- Start additional pilots with other state coalitions to build on the Arizona work

The New State-Level Index℠

The new state-level ACT Index will calculate the performance level of each state relative to the US average (base = 100) for any year. The current rankings cover the period 2003-2016.

Call to Action

- The new state-level ACT Index will calculate the performance level of each state relative to the US average (base = 100) for any year. The current rankings cover the period 2003-2016.
- We are always looking for better measures to track high quality care. Please get in touch if you have suggestions
- Incorporate measures, as the Arizona coalition has, from the Index into your strategic plan
- Help us identify coaches in high performing states who can share what they’ve learned with others