



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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Louisiana Hospital Association Joins HHS Partnership to Prevent Patient Injuries and Complications in Hospital Settings

Baton Rouge, April 13, 2011 – The Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) today joined the Health and Human Services (HHS) Partnership for Patients initiative, which will help save 60,000 lives nationwide by stopping millions of preventable injuries and complications in patient care over the next three years. HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that the federal government will invest up to \$1 billion in the new Partnership for Patients initiative. HHS will make up to \$500 million of that funding available through the Community-based Care Transitions Program, and up to \$500 million more will be dedicated from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center to support new demonstrations related to reducing hospital-acquired conditions.

The funding will be invested in reforms to help achieve two goals:

- Keep hospital patients from getting injured or sicker. By the end of 2013, preventable hospital-acquired conditions would decrease by 40 percent compared to 2010. Achieving this goal would mean approximately 1.8 million fewer injuries to patients, with more than 60,000 lives saved over the next three years.
- Help patients heal without complication. By the end of 2013, preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another would be decreased so that all hospital readmissions would be reduced by 20 percent compared to 2010. Achieving this goal would mean more than 1.6 million patients will recover from illness without suffering a preventable complication requiring re-hospitalization within 30 days of discharge.

The LHA has already identified readmission reduction as a priority and is partnering with eQHealth Solutions, Louisiana's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, on this initiative. Approximately 50 hospital teams statewide are currently being educated on ways to reduce avoidable inpatient hospital readmissions in fragile patient populations. This is being done through an expansion of eQHealth Solutions' nationally acclaimed work implementing CMS' Care Transitions pilot program throughout the state. More advanced training is already planned over the next year.

“The LHA and its member hospitals are committed to reducing readmissions, and this valuable training provided through our partnership with eQHealth Solutions will improve outcomes for patients across Louisiana,” said LHA Vice President of Quality & Regulatory Activities Ken Alexander.

“We are eager to take this successful Baton Rouge pilot program and expand it to other parts of the state,” said eQHealth Solutions Director of Quality Laurie Robinson. “We look forward to sharing best practices with hospitals statewide.”

Louisiana hospitals are also participating in several other quality initiatives, including:

- Training teams of Emergency Department physicians and nurses in “Door to Doc,” a team oriented method for improving efficiency and care in hospital emergency rooms, through a partnership with the LHA, the Health Research and Education Trust and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The “Door to Doc” initiative in other states has been successful in reducing patient wait times, which also decreases the number of patients who leave the hospital without receiving treatment, thereby improving patient safety;
- Participating in the nationally acclaimed On the CUSP: Stop BSI Bloodstream Infection Reduction Collaborative with 13 hospitals across the state. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cited this national collaborative in a recent report showing a 58 percent decline in Intensive Care Unit bloodstream infections between 2001 and 2009. Additionally, other hospitals across the state are undertaking similar initiatives to reduce and eventually eliminate central line associated bloodstream infections; and
- Joining Gov. Jindal’s Birth Outcomes Initiative to improve pre-natal health for mothers and infants and to encourage a change in hospital policy to eliminate pre-39 week elective deliveries, which increase risk and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit stays for infants.

“The LHA provides tools and resources to help hospitals implement successful strategies to improve quality and patient safety,” said Alexander. “We are also committed to working with hospitals and their staff to share best practices that enhance the good work that is already underway.”

For more information about the Partnership for Patients, visit www.HealthCare.gov/center/programs/partnership.

For a fact sheet on yesterday’s announcement from HHS, visit www.HealthCare.gov/news/factsheets/partnership04122011a.html.

For more information about the Community-based Care Transitions Program funding opportunity, visit www.cms.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itemdetail.asp?itemID=CMS1239313.

About the Louisiana Hospital Association

Established in 1926, the Louisiana Hospital Association is a non-profit organization representing hospitals and healthcare provider groups across the state. The mission of the LHA is to support its members through advocacy, education and services. For more information, please visit the LHA website at www.lhaonline.org.

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