



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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TIME SENSITIVE: Hospital Engagement Network Project Formal Solicitation for Participation

This year, CMS announced the first major initiative in its Partnership for Patients campaign, which includes \$500 million in contract awards in five related areas to address the P4P's major goals of reducing inpatient harm by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent over a three year period. One of the five contracts is the Hospital Engagement Network (HEN), whose goal is to engage hospitals in meaningful education, training and improvement activities to address at least seven of 10 core areas of improvement (listed on the reverse side). The LHA originally submitted an individual contract to work with eQHealth, but we and many other hospital associations were directed by CMS to the Health Research and Education Trust (HRET)/ American Hospital Association (AHA) Hospital Engagement Network Project, in which the money will flow directly from the LHA to participating hospitals.

The next step for the HEN contract is formal recruitment of hospitals. **Many hospitals have already signed letters of interest, but this letter is the formal solicitation for the project. The LHA must send a list of hospitals that will be participating in the contract to HRET by January 31.** Hospitals that do not submit letters at this time will NOT be able to participate once the project has started. Hospitals participating in the two to three year project will receive free training, education, consultation and assistance in at least seven of the quality focus areas outlined by CMS, which are also targeted for financial incentives and/or penalties as outlined in the Affordable Care Act and, more recently, the Value Based Purchasing rule.

Below are some benefits to participating in the LHA HEN:

- The LHA is a part of the HRET/AHA Hospital Engagement Network - which is 4 times larger than next biggest contract.
- The LHA is a part of 34 state hospital associations and over 1,900 hospitals - thus a great opportunity to share successful strategies.
- HRET/AHA has already been recognized by CMS for leadership in readmissions strategy.
- As a part of the HRET/AHA Hospital Engagement Network, your hospital will have access to national experts, including IHI, and innovative programs, such as a new Fellowship program as a part of the contract.
- The LHA will provide to hospitals upfront funding to support data collection.
- The HRET/AHA HEN will be linked to the nationally branded Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence (HPOE) initiative and its related website and newsletter.

If your facility is interested in working with the LHA to receive free training, education and improvement activities in these core areas, please fill out the commitment letter on the next page prior to January 27, 2012. We understand this is a short turnaround time. Contact LHA Vice President of Quality & Regulatory Activities Ken Alexander at kalexander@lhaonline.org or at 225-776-6720 with any questions concerning the project. Submit your commitment letter to dhurse@lhaonline.org or fax to (225) 923-1004.

**Formal Commitment to Participate in the Partnership for Patients (PFP)
Patient Safety Hospital Engagement Network (HEN) Contract**

_____ (Facility Name) will participate in the two to three year Hospital Engagement Network project to receive free training, education, consultation and assistance in at least seven of the ten quality focus areas outlined by CMS (below).

- Adverse Drug Events (ADE)
- Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)
- Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI)
- Injuries From Falls and Immobility
- Obstetrical Adverse Events
- Pressure Ulcers
- Surgical Site Infections (SSI)
- Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)
- Ventilator Associated Pneumonia (VAP)
- Preventable Readmissions

Additionally, the following areas have been identified as worthwhile improvement initiatives by the LHA and will be included in the training.

- TeamSTEPPS
- Comprehensive Unit Based Safety Protocol (CUSP)
- Rapid Cycle Change Process

Thank you for your commitment to improving care and eliminating harm in your hospital! A representative will contact you in the near future to learn more about your specific needs.

Signature CEO/Designee: _____

Please designate a contact person below:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please email completed commitment letter by January 27, 2012 to dhursey@lhaonline.org or fax to 225-923-1004.