



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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Hospitals Celebrate Strides Made Toward Patient Safety and Reducing Medical Errors during National Patient Safety Awareness Week

Baton Rouge, March 4, 2011 – The Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) and hospitals throughout the state will celebrate National Patient Safety Awareness Week March 6-12, 2011.

“This week, Louisiana’s hospitals will celebrate the fact that providing healthcare in a safe, compassionate environment is the foundation on which every hospital’s mission is built,” said LHA President and CEO John Matessino. “Every day presents an opportunity to improve care, enhance patient safety and reduce the possibility of errors.”

During patient safety week, the LHA, in partnership with the Health Research and Education Trust and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, will train 10 teams of Emergency Department physicians and nurses in “Door to Doc,” a team oriented method for improving efficiency and care in hospital emergency rooms. 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.

“For Louisiana’s hospitals, every day of every week is dedicated toward continually enhancing patient safety efforts and preventing harm from occurring to our patients,” said LHA Vice President of Quality & Regulatory Activities Ken Alexander. “We know that hospitals are safer and more transparent than ever before.”

The LHA is committed to providing tools and resources to help hospitals implement successful strategies to improve quality and patient safety, as well as fostering an environment to share best practices that enhance the good work that is already underway.

Other successes the LHA and members are celebrating this week include:

- 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;
- 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; and
- Partnering with eQHealth Solutions, Louisiana’s Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, in April and May to educate hospitals on ways to reduce avoidable inpatient hospital readmissions in fragile patient populations.

“Louisiana’s hospitals are committed to improving care and increasing the quality of human life,” said Alexander. “These are just a few of the many activities and initiatives the LHA and its member hospitals are doing that will result in improved patient care, greater efficiency and lower cost.”

National Patient Safety Awareness Week is coordinated by the [National Patient Safety Foundation](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving patient safety and reducing medical errors.

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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