



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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HEALTH CARE QUALITY CONFERENCE DRAWS 585 PROVIDERS TO MARKSVILLE *Reducing High Rate of Pressure Ulcers in Louisiana Nursing Home and Hospital Patients is Focus*

Baton Rouge, January 20, 2010 – More than 585 health care providers are gathering at the Paragon Resort Hotel's Mari Center in Marksville, La., on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010, to learn critical skills for improving health care delivered to Louisiana's elderly. They will learn new techniques for reducing the high incidence of pressure ulcers in Louisiana's elderly nursing home and hospital patient populations.

The event is presented by a collaborative of leading health care agencies in Louisiana, led by eQHealth Solutions, the Medicare QIO for Louisiana and funded through a grant from the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. The collaborative partners also include the Louisiana Hospital Association, the Louisiana Nursing Home Association, the Gulf States Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, and the Louisiana Ombudsman Program.

Speakers scheduled to present include:

Joyce Black, PhD, DNP, CPSN, CWCN, FAPWCA - Dr. Black is an associate professor at the University of Nebraska, College of Nursing, a past president of the North American Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel and is an advisor for the International Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Management Guidelines. She is also a fellow with the American Practitioners in Wound Care Academy and an internationally respected researcher and author.

Charles Cefalu, MD, MS - Dr. Cefalu is the physician program director of the LSU Geriatric Medicine Fellowship, serves as chair of the clinical practice committee and on the clinical practice guideline committee of the American Medical Directors Association and on the public policy committee of the American Geriatrics Society. He also serves on the clinical advisory board for eQHealth Solutions, formerly Louisiana Health Care Review.

Myra Varnado, RN, BS, CDE, CWOCN - Ms. Varnado is the manager of Hyperbarics and Wound Ostomy Clinical Services for the LSU Health System-New Orleans. She is the 2009 WOCN Nurse Educator of the Year and 2009 WOCN President's Award recipient, South Central Region WOCN Society, 2007 WOCN Nurse of the Year, featured on Discovery Health Channel and is a member of the National WOCN Wound Guidelines Panel 2000–2010.

The collaborative, which began in the spring of 2008, has focused on bringing multiple providers together with a common focus, effort and methodology to reduce and ultimately eliminate pressure ulcers in hospitals, nursing homes and hospice. Pressure ulcer incidence is considered one of the most important indicators used to measure health care quality. It is a publicly reported

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quality measure by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Quality Forum, The Joint Commission, the Agency for Health Care Research & Quality and the Commonwealth Fund. CMS has made pressure ulcer prevention a focus of its quality improvement work carried out in Louisiana by eQHealth Solutions.

More information about the event is available at www.lhcrmedicare.org or by calling Julie Kueker, quality improvement specialist with eQHealth Solutions, at 225-926-6353 or Ken Alexander, LHA vice president of quality and regulatory activities, at 225-928-0026.

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About the Louisiana Hospital Association

Established in 1926, the Louisiana Hospital Association is a non-profit organization representing more than 150 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.