



CEEQNET

Health Care Quality Newsletter 2005

Dear partners of the CEEQNET project,

as you are all aware of, the main aim of our project is to share best practices for the improvement of all the health care services our respective facilities provide to our patients. There is a multitude of activities targeted on improvement of quality, accessibility, efficiency, efficacy, safety and timeliness of the services we are providing. The core product of our efforts (the identification and appropriate use of some core measures which can be extracted from the already used databases of our respective health care facilities) would be useless, unless we are able to interpret the measures in the context of our health care systems and assure appropriate processes leading to improvement in the work we are doing. In order to facilitate the process of reflection and reorientation of some of our everyday efforts, please accept the following newsletter (which is produced periodically) as a service to all members of our community – „ to find out what's going on in other places and organizations“. We sincerely hope, that you will (if you have lists of significant links relating to performance and quality management in health care, or if you can provide or point to significant documents) all actively collaborate in the production of our future newsletters. We are more than eager to receive any of your comments that will help us to develop this newsletter into a useful resource not only for you, but also for any health care facilities you may be collaborating with.

Sincerely yours

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*Please be so kind and send your comments and suggestions to
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This newsletter keywords:
quality improvement, patient safety, health care, standards, research

<i>AHRQ Releases State-Specific Quality Measures Data.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>International Practicum on Quality Improvement and Accreditation July 11-15, 2005, Chicago, IL USA.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Hospital Quality Alliance launches consumer-oriented Web site.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>ISQua (International Society for Quality in Health Care).....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>NQF releases draft standards for outpatient care</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Patient Safety Network.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Partnership releases patient brochure on clinical research studies</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>AHRQ Releases Advances in Patient Safety-A Four-Volume Compendium</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Group announces effort to develop health information exchange prototype</i>	<i>4</i>

April – June 2005

AHRQ Releases State-Specific Quality Measures Data

<http://www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov/>

AHRQ announced the release of State-level health care quality data compilations based on the congressionally mandated 2004 National Healthcare Quality Report. The data are designed to help State health officials more easily identify areas where they are doing well and those where quality improvement is necessary. Quality measures were compiled for the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

QualityTools, sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is a Web-based clearinghouse providing practical tools for assessing, measuring, promoting, and improving the quality of Americans' health care. QualityTools is sponsored by AHRQ to promote widespread access to health care quality information used by the health care community and other interested individuals.

The QualityTools mission is to provide health care providers, health plans, policymakers, purchasers, patients and consumers an accessible mechanism to implement quality improvement recommendations, initiatives, or principles and to improve the delivery and receipt of care, inform health care decisions, and educate individuals regarding their own health care needs.

International Practicum on Quality Improvement and Accreditation July 11-15, 2005, Chicago, IL USA

<http://www.jcrinc.com/international.asp?durki=8085>

In this forum, participants will learn from global experts, share experiences, and observe an accreditation survey simulation at a local health care organization. This premier seminar is for health care professionals preparing for JCI accreditation or who are interested in improving quality and safety in their organization.

Gain the tools necessary for addressing the JCI Accreditation Standards through:

- Didactic small group formats
- Interactive discussions
- Practical exercises
- Case studies

Discover the new standards for:

- Clinical Laboratory Services
- Care Continuum
- Medical Transport

- Disease or Condition Specific Care
- Ambulatory Care

The International Practicum on Quality Improvement and Accreditation will take place at the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization's (JCAHO) headquarters campus in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois just 25 miles west of Chicago.

Hospital Quality Alliance launches consumer-oriented Web site

<http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov/>

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES is the United States government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

HHS WORKS CLOSELY WITH STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, and many HHS-funded services are provided at the local level by state or county agencies, or through private sector grantees. The Department's programs are administered by 11 operating divisions, including eight agencies in the U.S. Public Health Service and three human services agencies. In addition to the services they deliver, the HHS programs provide for equitable treatment of beneficiaries nationwide, and they enable the collection of national health and other data.

- HHS Budget, FY 2007 -- \$698 billion
- HHS employees – 67,444

Leaders of the Hospital Quality Alliance today unveiled a new "Hospital Compare" Web site that enables consumers to compare hospitals' performance on 17 key measures of care for heart attack, heart failure and stroke. More than 4,200 hospitals, nearly every general acute care hospital in the U.S, are voluntarily sharing their quality data through the site.

ISQua (International Society for Quality in Health Care)

<http://www.isqua.org/>

ISQua, The International Society for Quality in Health Care, is a non-profit, independent organisation with members in over 70 countries. ISQua works to provide services to guide health professionals, providers, researchers, agencies, policy makers and consumers, to achieve excellence in healthcare delivery to all people, and to continuously improve the quality and safety of care.

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NQF releases draft standards for outpatient care

<http://www.qualityforum.org/txWEBambreport04-20-05.pdf>

The National Quality Forum yesterday released for comment a set of 50 proposed voluntary consensus standards for measuring and reporting the quality of outpatient care. The proposed standards include measures in seven areas: asthma/respiratory conditions; depression/behavioral health; bone diseases; heart disease; hypertension; prenatal care; and

prevention, immunization and screening. Public comments are due by May 16, and NQF member comments by May 23. Under the organization's consensus process, NQF members then would vote on a revised draft of the standards. AHA, a member of NQF, is still reviewing the draft standards.

Patient Safety Network

<http://psnet.ahrq.gov/>

AHRQ Patient Safety Network (PSNet) is a new national web-based resource featuring the latest news and essential resources on patient safety. The site offers weekly updates of patient safety literature, news, tools, and meetings ("What's New"), and a vast set of carefully annotated links to important research and other information on patient safety ("The Collection").

Supported by a robust patient safety taxonomy and web architecture, AHRQ PSNet provides powerful searching and browsing capability, as well as the ability for diverse users to customize the site around their interests (My PSNet).

Partnership releases patient brochure on clinical research studies

www.phrp.org/show.asp

The Partnership for Human Research Protection today launched a national campaign to educate the public about the risks and benefits of participating in clinical research studies, centered on a free brochure being distributed to hospitals accredited by the PHRP and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The brochure, also available on the PHRP Web site, explains how clinical trials are conducted and suggests questions prospective participants should ask their doctor or the researcher conducting the study. An independent entity formed by JCAHO and the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the PHRP accredits human research protection programs.

AHRQ Releases Advances in Patient Safety-A Four-Volume Compendium

<http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2005/advancpr.htm>

HHS' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the U.S. Department of Defense today released the federal government's first compendium of studies on the successes and challenges of efforts to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors. Advances in Patient Safety: From Research to Implementation is a four-volume set of 140 peer-reviewed articles that represents an overview of patient safety studies by AHRQ-funded researchers and other government-sponsored research.

Group announces effort to develop health information exchange prototype

<http://www.connectingforhealth.org/>

A public-private initiative working to accelerate the sharing of patient data by medical communities today announced plans for an electronic health information exchange prototype that will allow three disparate health information networks in California, Massachusetts and Indiana to share information within and among local regions and communities. The Connecting for Health collaborative said the prototype was formulated around principles designed to guarantee that patients exercise control over their health information, that data is stored within provider and not centralized databases, that the Internet and not a new network is used to share data, and that different types of software and hardware can be used. Participants hope the project will serve as a national prototype for health information exchange.