

EMBARGOED UNTIL DEC. 12, 2002 AT 11 A.M. EASTERN

HOSPITAL QUALITY INFORMATION INITIATIVE FACT SHEET

Summary

The American Hospital Association (AHA), the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH), and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) are launching a national voluntary initiative to collect and report hospital quality performance information. This effort is intended to make critical information about hospital performance accessible to the public and to inform and invigorate efforts to improve quality. Voluntary reporting is an essential first step to realize this goal

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the National Quality Forum (NQF), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) support this initiative as the beginning of an ongoing effort to make hospital performance information more accessible to the public, payors and providers of care. NQF, JCAHO, CMS, and AHRQ will provide technical assistance in developing and/or identifying quality measures; and assist in making the information accessible, understandable and relevant to the public.

Need

There is growing consensus among a broad array of federal, state, business and industry, union, employer and consumer stakeholders around the importance of public reporting of hospital quality measures, including those that measure clinical outcomes and the patient's perception of care. Over time, public reporting will give consumers needed information about the health care system that may help them make more informed decisions about their care. Valid, reliable, comparable and salient quality measures have been shown to provide a potent stimulus for clinicians and providers to improve the quality of the care they provide. This voluntary reporting initiative is a significant step toward a more informed public and sustained health care quality improvement.

Intent

The purpose of this effort is to:

- Provide useful and valid information about hospital quality to the public;
- Give providers a sense of predictability about public reporting expectations;
- Standardize data collection priorities and mechanisms;
- Support physicians and other clinicians in their ability to provide quality care to patients; and
- Enhance hospitals' efforts to improve the care they deliver.

Collaboration

These national hospital associations are stepping forward to partner with government, with the support of JCAHO and NQF, to align their quality measurement and improvement efforts to be more effective and efficient as they work to improve health care. In partnership, health care providers and government will be more effective in promoting improvements in care and in helping the public become better informed. This initial voluntary reporting collaboration will provide a foundation for the future use of NQF endorsed measures.

Commitment

The focus of the national public reporting of hospital measures and the associated quality improvement work will be on a common set of measures and priorities that relate to medical conditions or aspects of care, and patients' perceptions of care. The hospital associations commit to working with their members to voluntarily share with the public the performance measures created through this process.

First Steps

Measures - To get started quickly, hospitals will begin with 10 JCAHO/CMS-developed NQF-endorsed measures that are feasible to be publicly reported immediately.

Condition: Acute Myocardial Infarction

Measures: Aspirin at arrival, Aspirin at discharge, Beta blocker at arrival, Beta blocker at discharge, ACE Inhibitor for left ventricular systolic dysfunction

Condition: Heart Failure

Measures: Left ventricular function assessment, ACE inhibitor for left ventricular systolic dysfunction

Condition: Pneumonia

Measures: Initial antibiotic timing, Pneumococcal vaccination, Oxygenation assessment

Technical Assistance - JCAHO, NQF, CMS and AHRQ will provide technical assistance regarding the quality measures, making the information accessible and understandable to the public, and fostering quality improvement. In particular, CMS will make technical assistance in quality improvement activities available through the federally funded Medicare Quality Improvement Organizations in each state, and will report this quality information on www.cms.hhs.gov.

3-State Pilot - CMS has implemented a 3-state pilot project to test and refine a standardized 'Patient Experience of Care' survey (H-CAHPS) instrument for

national use. In addition, this pilot project will test and refine consumer messages about hospital quality, allowing CMS to create 'Hospital Compare' on www.medicare.gov. Pilot states include New York, Maryland and Arizona.

Subsequent Steps

Future priorities and measures will be informed by a forthcoming report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) that will identify 15 to 20 priority areas for quality improvement. Measures will be drawn from those endorsed by NQF; measures will be sought that respond to the 6 aims set forth in IOM's *Crossing the Quality Chasm*, and where possible will include cross-cutting measures. The entire spectrum of stakeholders will be engaged to work toward focusing national public reporting of hospital performance on agreed-upon priorities and NQF-endorsed measures.

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