



# HOSPITAL CHECK-IN

Linking hospitals to quality and safety resources

March 2010

## NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK



March 7 - 13, 2010, is National Patient Safety Awareness Week—a national education and awareness-building campaign for improving patient safety at the local level. We hope you have planned events to promote patient safety within your organization. At a minimum, recognize the hard work you have done to date—and celebrate it!

Hospitals and health care organizations across the country are featuring activities centered on educating patients on how to become involved in their own health care, as well as working with hospitals to build partnerships with their patient community. [More >](#)

## THIS ISSUE

Data and Public Reporting 2

Utilization and Coding 3

Organizational Change 3

Events 3

Stratis Health Contacts 4

## CLINICAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

### Universal Annual Influenza Vaccination Recommended

A panel of immunization experts—the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—voted February 24, 2010, to expand the recommendation for annual influenza vaccination to include all people aged six months and older.

The expanded recommendation takes effect in the 2010 – 2011 influenza season. The new recommendation seeks to remove barriers to influenza immunization and signals the importance of preventing influenza across the entire population. [More >](#)

### Quality Improvement Resources

[Immunization Action Coalition](#) is a source of childhood, adolescent, and adult immunization information for health care professionals. Subscribe online to receive free periodicals. Additional resources also online.

- ✦ IAC Express - email news delivered every Monday, covering the latest information about U.S. vaccine recommendations and policies.
- ✦ Needle Tips - online publication for health professionals who provide vaccination services to children or adults. Published six times per year.

- ✦ Vaccinate Adults - online publication for adult medicine specialists. Published six times per year.

[Recorded Training Sessions](#) are available on Stratis Health's Web site.

### CMS National Patient Safety Initiative: MRSA, Meeting the Challenges of Today's Hospital Infections.

Presented by Alfonso Torres-Cook, PhD, Epidemiologist.

### Heart Failure: Using ACEIs and ARBs, SCIP Perioperative Use of Beta Blockers.

Presented by Nancy Jane C. Friedley, MD, Medical Director, Delmarva Foundation.

# DATA AND PUBLIC REPORTING

## Data Submission Reminder

**Next quarter of clinical data due to Warehouse:** 4Q 2009 (October - December 2009)

**Data submission deadline:** May 15, 2010  
Must use CART version: 4.7.1



## Abstraction Assistance

To receive Stratis Health assistance with abstraction, email Robyn Carlson at [rcarlson@stratishealth.org](mailto:rcarlson@stratishealth.org), or call 952-853-8587.

## Quality Data Reporting Resource

[Recorded Training Sessions](#) are available on Stratis Health's Web site.

**Preparing Critical Access Hospitals for the New World of Hospital Measurement Session #4: Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System.**  
Presented by Annette Kritzler, Program Manager, Stratis Health.

## RHQDAPU Validation Fact Sheet

The Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update (RHQDAPU) Quality Improvement Organization Support Center has released the [Validation Fact Sheet](#), February 24, 2010.

## SCIP FAQ for 10/1/09 Discharges Updated

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) has issued an update of the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document for the Q409 abstraction period—for 10/1/09 Discharges.

Clarifications to some of the questions and answers are provided in the revision. This revised document is posted under Abstraction Resources on the QualityNet site.

**Frequently Asked Questions (PDFs) – for 4Q09 - 1Q10 discharges**

- AMI
- PN
- SCIP

**Frequently Asked Questions (PDFs) – for 2Q09 - 3Q09 discharges**

- AMI
- PN
- SCIP

If you have accessed the SCIP FAQ that was posted January 29, 2010, discard and reference the updated version. Contact Stratis Health if you have any questions.

[More >](#)

## New Web Sites for Hospital Quality Measures

Two new Web sites share measures about the quality of care provided by hospitals. One was developed for consumers, the other for health care professionals.

### [Minnesota HealthScores Website](#)

**Consumers.** This site has been updated to include measures of quality of care for hospitals to enhance statewide quality reporting and measurement, as required under Minnesota's State Quality Measurement and Reporting System.

The new hospital measures include: abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, angioplasty heart surgery, blood clots after surgery, heart bypass surgery, hip fracture surgery, pressure ulcers, surgery complications, and vaginal delivery with/and without instrument.

### Sample Results for a Hospital

Click column headers to sort Condition	Number of Procedures ✓ = Proficient	Compared to Expected Rate
<a href="#">Angioplasty Heart Surgery</a>	1971	Same <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Heart Bypass Surgery</a>	406	Same <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<a href="#">Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair</a>	113	Same <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

These measures are based on hospital billing information reported to the Minnesota Hospital Association, using specifications provided by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Measures reflect proficiency and rates compared to expected for similar hospitals and patient mix.

### [WhyNotTheBest.org](#)

**Health care professionals.** This Web site is intended to provide easier access to the measures of hospital quality being publicly reported on the CMS Web site [Hospital Compare](#).

The Commonwealth Fund, a private foundation, created the site for tracking performance on health care quality. Data are included for nearly all U.S. hospitals—over 4,500 facilities. Organizations can compare their performance against peer organizations, against a range of benchmarks, and over time.

## UTILIZATION AND CODING

### Observation Stay Explained

CMS has created [Are You a Hospital Inpatient or Outpatient?](#), a six-page document responding to concerns raised by Medicare beneficiaries, nursing home trade associations, nursing home providers, and others about Outpatient Observation used in the hospital setting.

This information sheet aims to clarify the confusion about what this level of care is, how it impacts Medicare eligibility for Part A benefits in the nursing home following an Observation stay, and other financial implications for Medicare patients who are in an Observation stay.

Share this resource with Medicare patients and their families, as well as with hospital staff who may not be well versed this aspect of Observation.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

### Hospital Readmissions Pilot

A group of Medicare Advantage patients admitted to Fairview Southdale Hospital during 2010 will benefit from a pilot project to keep them from returning unnecessarily to the hospital. Fairview

Physician Associates, UCare, and Fairview Southdale Hospital have teamed up to improve patient care and experience, and reduce costs. The pilot is designed using evidence-based data to reduce variation and establish standardized processes. They hope to

see at least a 20 percent drop in preventable readmissions to the hospital. Each prevented readmission will keep patients healthier and could save at least \$5,000 per patient. [More >](#)



## EVENTS



### Paradigm Lost: Guiding Organizations Through the Whirlwind of Change

March 11, 2010, Minneapolis, MN

Noted gerontologist, nurse, and small house expert, Jude Rabig, PhD, RN, will discuss new models of long-term care. [More>](#)

### Stratis Health and Minnesota Hospital Association Patient Safety and Quality Meetings

March 16 – April 29, 2010

Attend a regional meeting to network  and problem solve with peers. At these forums, quality and patient safety professionals will discuss current issues, common barriers, and success stories. Meetings will include a roundtable on patient safety needs assessment, and updates from the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety, Stratis Health, and the Minnesota Hospital Association.  [Register online.](#) Questions, contact Mary Montury, [mmontury@stratishealth.org](mailto:mmontury@stratishealth.org), 952-853-8541.

- March 16, Stratis Health, Bloomington  
MHA Region 4
- March 17, Redwood Falls Community Center  
Redwood Falls, MHA Region 5
- April 6, Hampton Inn & Suites, Bemidji  
MHA Region 1
- April 7, Hermantown Clinic, Duluth  
MHA Region 2
- April 20, Owatonna Hospital, Owatonna  
MHA Region 6
- April 29, Holiday Inn & Suites, St. Cloud  
MHA Region 3

### Preventing CLAB Infections: Safe Patients, Smart Hospitals

March 18, 2010, Webinar

This panel discussion, with Dr. Peter Pronovost, addresses Safe Practice 21: Central Line-Associated Bloodstream (CLAB) Infection Prevention. Hosted by the National Quality Forum and TMIT. [More>](#)

## EVENTS CONTINUED

### Issues & Strategies on Adult Vaccine-Preventable Disease

**March 19, 2010, Chaska, MN**

The Minnesota Coalition for Adult Immunization is hosting its 19th annual conference at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Hear the latest information about seasonal and H1N1 influenza, HPV, and more. [More>](#)

### Minnesota Rural Palliative Care Initiative Outcomes Congress

**April 8, 2010, St. Cloud, MN**

Palliative care is an approach to managing serious and advanced illness, centering on relieving suffering and improving quality of life for patients and their families. Ten rural Minnesota communities are participating in an initiative to establish or strengthen palliative care programs in their communities. Learn about their progress and how to take palliative care to the next level. [More>](#)

### National Healthcare Decisions Day

**April 16, 2010**

This annual grassroots effort promotes advance care planning and health care decision making. All Americans are encouraged to voice their wishes and take steps to ensure that their choices are known and protected. [More>](#)

### Minnesota Stroke Conference 2010: Innovations and Improvements

**May 11, 2010, St. Cloud, MN**

This conference will offer an update on the latest developments in acute stroke treatment and management, describe strategies and lessons learned in implementing telemedicine for stroke, and share best practice strategies and tools for improving stroke care in Minnesota hospitals with or without an established stroke program. [More>](#)

## STRATIS HEALTH CONTACT INFORMATION

### Abstraction

Robyn Carlson, Data Quality Specialist  
952-853-8587, rcarlson@stratishealth.org

### Data and Public Reporting, Drug Safety

Denise White, Program Manager  
952-853-8526, dwhite@stratishealth.org

### MRSA and SCIP/HF

Janelle Shearer, Program Manager  
952-853-8553, jshearer@stratishealth.org

### Utilization and Coding

Betsy Jeppesen, Vice President,  
Program Integrity  
952-853-8510, bjeppesen@stratishealth.org

### General Hospital Information

Mary Montury, Program Coordinator  
952-853-8541, mmontury@stratishealth.org

### Communications

Margaret LeDuc, Editor  
952-853-8578, mleduc@stratishealth.org

**Stratis Health** is a nonprofit organization that leads collaboration and innovation in health care quality and safety, and serves as a trusted expert in facilitating improvement for people and communities.

Stratis Health works toward its mission through initiatives funded by federal and state government contracts, and community and foundation grants, including serving as Minnesota's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization.

### President and CEO

Jennifer P. Lundblad, PhD, MBA

### Director, Medical Affairs

Jane Pederson, MD, MS

### Board of Directors

Kathleen D. Brooks, MD, MBA  
Huda Farah, MSc  
Nancy Feldman  
William E. Jacott, MD  
Lucinda Jesson, JD  
Dee H. Kemnitz  
Michele Kimball  
Stephen Kopecky, MD  
Clint MacKinney, MD, MS  
Alison H. Page, MS, MHA  
Michael Spilane, MD  
Ruth Stryker-Gordon, MA, RN  
Dale Thompson, *board chair*

### Stratis Health

2901 Metro Drive, Suite 400  
Bloomington, MN 55425-1525  
952-854-3306 • 952-853-8503 (fax)  
Email: [info@stratishealth.org](mailto:info@stratishealth.org)

[www.stratishealth.org](http://www.stratishealth.org)

This material was prepared by Stratis Health, the Minnesota Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The materials do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 9SOW-MN-6.1-10-51 030810

