



HOSPITAL CHECK-IN

Linking hospitals to quality and safety resources

January 2010

Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement Rule Adopted

The Minnesota Department of Health has adopted a permanent rule establishing the Minnesota Statewide Quality Reporting and Measurement System. This rule compels physician clinics and hospitals to submit data on a set of quality measures to be publicly reported, and establishes a broader standardized set of quality measures for health care providers across the state. The rule was published in the December 28, 2009, edition of the State Register, and is effective as of that date. Email support@govdelivery.com with questions.

CLINICAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Stratis Health and Minnesota HomeCare Association Become Minnesota's HHQI LANE

Stratis Health and the Minnesota HomeCare Association have partnered to become Minnesota's Home Health Quality Improvement (HHQI) Local Area Network of Excellence (LANE). A new HHQI National Campaign will launch on January 13, 2010. Minnesota home health agencies are invited to participate in this free initiative to improve the quality of care their patients receive as measured by reduction in avoidable hospitalizations and improvement in management of oral medications.



Registration begins January 13, 2010, and will remain open throughout the 18-month campaign. Agencies that register before January 20, 2010, will be recognized as National Campaign Premier Home Health Agencies. Some of the resources available to participants include:

- New multimedia Best Practice Intervention Packages (BPIPs)
- Quarterly data reports to track agency progress
- Access to Home Health STAR, a free target-setting tool
- Access to online communication tools
- Cross-setting educational resources [More >](#)

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US Not Meeting Healthy People 2010 Targets

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the nation is failing to meet most Healthy People 2010 health targets. For example, rates for obesity, blood pressure control, and tooth decay in children are getting worse.

Read about the implications of projected Healthy People 2010 results for Healthy People 2020 and other state plans. [More>](#)



Continue to Vaccinate for the Flu

While it may feel like we've gotten through the worst of the seasonal and H1N1 flu season, it is important to continue to offer to vaccinate patients through the end of the flu season. In an effort to promote flu vaccination, the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Coalition for Adult Immunization and other organizations are sponsoring the annual [Ban the Bug](#) campaign beginning the week of January 10-16, 2010, by providing opportunities for Minnesotans to get their influenza vaccinations.

The kick-off week of the campaign coincides with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Influenza Vaccination Week. More than 110 million doses of the H1N1 vaccine are now available, with more coming every day. Now is the time to protect yourself and your patients, especially people with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, children and health care workers.

DATA AND PUBLIC REPORTING

CDAC Record Submission Deadline for 2Q 2009 Clinical Data Validation

Beginning with records requested for 2Q 2009 validation, hospitals have 45 days to submit records to CDAC. Previously, hospitals were allowed 30 days to submit records. Record requests were mailed by CDAC on December 2, 2009. **Requested records must be received by CDAC on or before January 18, 2010, to be validated.** The submission deadline will not be extended.

Note: The Hospital Data Validation Case Selection Report is currently displaying the "Submit to CDAC by" date as 30 days from the "Medical Record Request Date," rather than 45 days from the "Medical Record Request Date." The APU Dashboard indicates the records are due to CDAC by January 1, 2010. Both statements will be updated as soon as possible to reflect the accurate January 18 submission date.

Preview Data for HQA and RHQDAPU

Preview data for the Hospital Quality Alliance and Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update initiatives are available for participating hospitals on My QualityNet. The March 2010 Hospital Compare preview period is January 11 through February 9, 2010. Preview Reports can be accessed through the HQA Preview Reports link in the Reports section of My QualityNet. For instructions on how to retrieve your HQA Preview Report, refer to the QualityNet Report User's Guide, available from the Help link on My QualityNet.

A "Need Help" link on the HQA Preview Report description screen will direct you to a [Help document](#) with information regarding this public reporting period.

RHQDAPU 4Q 2009 Submission Requirements

This notification clarifies the Reporting Hospital Quality Data for Annual Payment Update data submission requirements for 4Q 2009 discharges. Data submission requirements for 4Q 2009 have not changed. Submission of the following data is required:

- Clinical process measures for AMI, heart failure, pneumonia, and the Surgical Care Improvement Program
- Aggregate population and sample size
- HCAHPS

An email distributed on November 24, 2009, stated, "Data validation for 4Q 2009 will not be used for the RHQDAPU program, and CMS has determined to forgo validation of clinical data for this quarter." Validation records will not be requested by CDAC for 4Q 2009 records. There are no other RHQDAPU requirements affected by this decision. Hospitals must submit the appropriate 4Q 2009 data to the QIO Clinical Data Warehouse as required in the IPPS Final Rule.

Data Submission Reminder

Next quarter of clinical data due to Warehouse: 3Q 2009 (July - September 2009)

Data submission deadline: February 15, 2010
Must use CART version: 4.6



Abstraction Assistance

To receive Stratis Health assistance with abstraction, email Robyn Carlson at rcarlson@stratishealth.org, or call 952-853-8587.

CHANGE MANAGEMENT

TeamSTEPPS Master Training Sessions Extended

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality obtained additional funds to extend its master training sessions at all five AHRQ Team Resource Centers across the country. In Minnesota, that resource center is at the University of Minnesota. TeamSTEPPS training sessions will be available at Team Resource Centers until early September 2011 on a first come, first served basis.

The actual training session schedule of dates and locations will be released when your organization's statement of readiness has been received and approved. Note that training is provided for teams of at least two people—not for individuals.

To obtain dates and approval to attend the course, complete and submit a readiness statement that includes the following information:

1. Assessment of leadership buy-in (Is corporate leadership on board? Will leadership provide resources for implementation training at your organization?)
2. A summary of your goals for TeamSTEPPS implementation (Why do you want to implement TeamSTEPPS in your organization?)
3. A summary of anticipated challenges (What do you see as obstacles to success?)
4. A brief description of your change management team (Who will you send to training and why?)

If your organization is a large system of hospitals, each hospital within the system that plans to implement TeamSTEPPS must submit a statement. The statement should be at least one full page in length or longer and attached to an email as an MS Word or PDF document.

Email Deborah Milne at dmilne@air.org. [More>](#)

2010 Minnesota Rural Health Conference Call for Proposals

The 2010 Minnesota Rural Health Conference: Leading Change for Rural Health, scheduled for June 28-29, 2010, in Duluth, MN, is seeking proposals on Critical Access Hospitals or broader rural health issues to be presented at conference breakout sessions.

Consider applying to present this year. The conference relies on people being willing to share the work they are doing. The deadline for submissions is January 22, 2010, 5:00 p.m. CT. [More >](#)

EVENTS

2010 Community Health Worker Mini Conference: Reducing Health Disparities January 28, 2010 St. Paul, MN



The 2010 Community Health Worker Mini Conference is a forum for sharing best practices in the emerging field of community health workers, and for fostering their success in Minnesota. The conference is presented by the Minnesota Community Health Worker Peer Network, and sponsored by WellShare International. [More>](#)

Certified Professional Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) Exam Preparation Course March 6, 2010, Twin Cities, MN

The CPHQ exam preparation course will take place at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. CEUs have been applied for. The cost of the course is yet to be determined. Contact Skip Valusek at skipvalusek@comcast.net for more information.

EVENTS CONTINUED

National Patient Safety Awareness Week March 7-13, 2010

Patient Safety Awareness Week is a national education and awareness-building campaign for improving patient safety at the local level.

Hospitals and health care organizations across the country are encouraged to plan events to promote patient safety within their own organizations. Educational activities are 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 >](#)



Fifth Decennial: International Conference on Healthcare-Associated Infections 2010 March 18-22, 2010, Atlanta, GA

Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Association for Professionals in Infection Control, Infectious Diseases Society of America, and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology, this meeting will set the agenda for health care associated infection prevention for the next decade. Hear new international and domestic perspectives with updates on scientific evidence in antimicrobial resistance, surveillance strategies, emerging infections, environmental transmission, and new technologies.

The conference is designed for epidemiologists, physicians, surgeons, nurses, pathologists, microbiologists, researchers, administrators, and specialists in infectious disease and critical care. [More >](#)

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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.

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