



HOSPITAL CHECK-IN

Linking hospitals to quality and safety resources

November 2009

Stratis Health staff members express their condolences to the family and friends of Michael Milbrath, Waseca Medical Center's executive vice president, and a true advocate of rural health care in Minnesota.

November is American Diabetes Month



This November, join the American Diabetes Association in a national movement to stop diabetes. Now is the time to highlight a serious disease that leads to potentially life-threatening complications such as heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, blindness, and amputation. Stratis Health is working to stop diabetes and improve diabetes management through our work with the Minnesota Diabetes Collaborative. [More >](#)

CLINICAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

American Heart Association Develops Heart Failure Resources

Heart failure is a complex chronic disease connected to other medical conditions and affected by many factors. As the population ages, heart failure is becoming more prevalent. The incidence of heart failure is expected to reach epidemic proportions.

The American Heart Association has developed educational tools, prevention programs, treatment guidelines, quality initiatives, and outcome-based programs to target heart failure across the continuum of health care. Resources are available for patients and their families, clinicians, researchers, hospital administrators, government health care agencies, and public policymakers. The Get With The Guidelines heart failure program is a hospital-based quality improvement program that assists in ensuring consistent, evidence-based treatment for heart failure patients. [More >](#)

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Stroke Awareness and Education Resource Toolkit

Created by the Minnesota Stroke Partnership, this [toolkit](#) is a guide for health educators to increase awareness of the signs and symptoms of stroke. The toolkit summarizes online and print materials, provides links to information and materials in English and other languages, and offers ideas for starting a stroke education campaign.

Temporary Bed Limit Waiver for H1N1 Outbreak

Critical Access Hospitals can request a temporary bed limit waiver for the H1N1 outbreak. [More >](#)

DATA AND PUBLIC REPORTING

Abstraction Guidelines Meeting January 12, 2010, Bloomington, MN

The Minnesota Core Measures Group invites hospital abstractors to attend its quarterly meetings. The group includes nearly 40 abstractors from hospitals around the state who meet to discuss and better understand abstraction guidelines. If you are interested in attending the Tuesday, January 12 meeting, contact Judy Bernhardt, JBernhardt@slhduluth.com, Rosemary Rose, rrose@smdc.org, or Mary Kandels, mary.kandels@allina.com, for more information. The meeting will take place at Stratis Health, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Abstraction Resources Released for Data Collection of National Inpatient Hospital Quality Measures, Version 3.0b, Specifications Manual

Topic-specific documents are now available for universal abstraction and for the CMS Abstraction and Reporting Tool (CART) created for conducting manual abstraction, effective for October 1, 2009, through March 31, 2010, discharges. The documents are available at QualityNet.org > Hospital Inpatient > Data Collection & CART > Abstraction Resources.

- Alphabetical abstraction paper tools are provided in Word format to allow for modification. Data elements are arranged in alphabetical order rather than tool specific order.
- CART abstraction paper tools provide data elements arranged in CART order to support CART 4.7 for October 1, 2009, through March 31, 2010, discharges.

For a comprehensive list of changes, refer to release notes for The Specifications Manual for National Hospital Inpatient Quality Measures for October 1, 2009, discharges. If you have questions or need assistance, contact the QualityNet Helpdesk.

New My QualityNet Report

The recently released report, Hospital Inpatient Comparison of Facility to State Participants and National Participants, provides the number of hospital inpatient records abstracted for a provider, and summarizes and compares

Data Submission Reminder

Next quarter of clinical data due to Warehouse: Q2 09
(April - June 2009)

Data submission deadline: November 15, 2009
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.

data by quarter for selected measures at facility, state, and national levels. The state and national columns will remain blank until 30 days after the submission deadline for the quarter.

Hospitals may select one or more topics for inclusion in the report and one provider. This report replaces all facility only topic reports and the facility, state, and national comparison reports. The report is located in the Quality Improvement Organization Clinical Warehouse Feedback Reports category. To access the report, the QIO Clinical Warehouse Feedback Reports role is required. Data will be provided in PDF format only.

QualityNet user guides are located on the Sign In to My QualityNet page and on the secure pages of QualityNet under the Help link. The QualityNet Reports User's Guides have been updated. Changes include all pages of the Table of Contents, all pages of Chapter 1, and pages 1, and 20 to 46 of Chapter 2. Find the user guides on the QualityNet.org home page, the Sign In to My QualityNet page, and on the secure pages of QualityNet under the Help link.

Appropriate Care Measure and Core Hospital Measure Benchmark Reports

Quarter 1, 2009, national ACM and core hospital measure [benchmark reports](#) are now available on QualityNet. The reports are located in the right hand corner of the screen. Click on the excel file to open and download to your computer.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

Institute for Healthcare Improvement Audio Program

A new IHI talk show, WIHI, hosts discussions on pertinent health care topics. All WIHI shows are available as downloads from IHI.org and iTunes. Resources compiled for each show are also available. Upcoming topics include: New Ways to Reduce Diagnosis Errors; Getting Down to Business and Health Care Reform; All Hospitals in Favor of Saving Money Say Patient Flow; and Open Notes and the Electronic Medical Record. [More >](#)

Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Grant

Submit a pre-application for the Rural Hospital Capital Improvement Grant by December 14. Contact Doug Benson at doug.benson@state.mn.us or 651-201-3842.

Minnesota e-Health Initiative 2009-2010 Workgroups Recruiting Participants

Participate in an e-Health workgroup on one of the following topics: exchange and meaningful use, standards and interoperability, privacy and security, or outreach and communications. [More >](#)

EVENTS

Minnesota Public Health Policy Forum: Unhealthy Influences, The Impact of Advertising on the Health of Children November 13, 2009, Minneapolis, MN

Stratis Health is a proud sponsor of this important forum on the impact of advertising on the health and behaviors of children and youth. From television and radio to sports and recreational venues, children are being exposed to messages designed to influence their health and buying preferences.

Future public health policy forums will include: Health Screenings - The Evidence, January 15, 2010; Health care for Undocumented Persons, March 12, 2010; Our Electronic Lifestyles and Our Health, May 14, 2010. [More >](#)

Speak Out to End Breast Cancer: An Advocacy Workshop, November 14, 2009 Bloomington, MN

Be the most effective breast cancer advocate you can be. Learn to develop tools to address critical issues in breast cancer research, prevention, and care. Learn the legislative process and science of breast cancer. Contact Christine Norton, chrisnorton@msn.com. [More >](#)

Cancer Summit 2009: Partners in Progress November 17, 2009, Bloomington, MN

As a member of the Minnesota Cancer Alliance, Stratis Health encourages health care professionals, community outreach workers, advocates, and survivors to come together for this working meeting. Jim Chase, MN Community Measurement president, will provide an overview of cancer screening data, including how data can impact coalitions to take action. Sessions will include a colorectal survivor story, Alliance projects, working sessions on colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, and quality of life initiatives. [More >](#)

Baldrige-Magnet-TJC, Could I Do All Three? November 19, 2009

A Webinar presented by Minnesota Healthcare Quality Professionals, HealthForce Minnesota, and Winona State University. Contact Skip Valusek, skipvalusek@comcast.net.

Stroke and Heart Failure Workshop December 2, 2009, Bloomington, MN

The American Stroke Association is offering a free full or half day workshop on stroke and heart failure with updates from The Joint Commission on Primary Stroke Center Certification and Advanced Heart Failure Certification. The workshop is designed to help hospitals close the gap in secondary prevention and treatment of ischemic stroke, and implement continuous quality improvement. Contact Christine Gratz, christine.gratz@heart.org.

The Relationship of Quality and Electronic Health Record Informatics December 17, 2009

A Webinar presented by Minnesota Healthcare Quality Professionals, HealthForce Minnesota, and Winona State University. Contact Skip Valusek, skipvalusek@comcast.net.

Certified Professional Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) Exam Preparation Course March 5-6, 2010

More information to follow.

National Patient Safety Awareness Week March 7-13, 2010

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 >](#)

STRATIS HEALTH CONTACT INFORMATION

Abstraction

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

Data and Public Reporting

Jane McGrath, Program Manager
952-853-8551, jmcgrath@stratishealth.org

Drug Safety and Pressure Ulcers

Annette Kritzler, Program Manager
952-853-8590, akritzler@stratishealth.org

MRSA and SCIP/HF

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

President and CEO

Jennifer P. Lundblad, PhD, MBA

Director, Medical Affairs

Jane Pederson, MD, MS

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.

Stratis Health

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

www.stratishealth.org

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