

Quality Quest



5 Million Lives Campaign Updates

North Dakota Campaign Participants

There are 17 North Dakota hospitals listed on the IHI website as participating in the 5 Million Lives Campaign and 9 of these have achieved "fully committed" status. To view the list of these hospitals, visit the IHI website at <http://www.IHI.org> and click on "Fully Committed". To discover what your hospital needs to do to be considered "fully committed", please contact Jean Roland or Jody Ward, NDHCRI project coordinators, at 701-852-4231.

IHI Visits West River Health Services

Diane Jacobsen, IHI Director, and representatives from NDHCRI visited West River Health Services (WRHS), Hettinger, in November as part of the IHI's Fall Harvest. The goal of the Fall Harvest was to gather lessons learned from hospitals that have had success in implementing Campaign interventions. During the visit, the West River staff shared their quality improvement story and highlighted several of their successes, including board involvement in setting quality standards, achieving a door to TNK time of less than 17 minutes, and having an unanticipated mortality rate of 0 for the past year.

CART 4.3 Newly Released with Patch

CART 4.3 is now available on the QualityNet Web site, <http://www.qualitynet.org>. **This is a mandatory release for discharges between October 1, 2007, and March 31, 2008.**

CART 4.3 is not able to archive the database on "standalone" installations if it was upgraded from a CART 4.1 version. Hospitals that have installed CART 4.1 and have performed upgrades to and including CART 4.3 will need to run the patch utility to fix the database archiving capability in CART 4.3. This applies to all standalone versions that at some time were upgraded from CART 4.1, whether or not the workstations have internet access. This does not apply to client/server installations. The patch is available for download on the QualityNet website at <http://www.qualitynet.org> by following the navigation path.

Updated Specifications Manual now available

The link to the [Specifications Manual for National Hospital Quality Measures](#), Version 2.4, for use with acute inpatient discharges from April 1 through September 30, 2008, has been posted to the QNet homepage: <http://www.qualitynet.org>.

Cardinal Grants Awarded to Three North Dakota CAHs

Three North Dakota hospitals were among recipients of a Cardinal grant—Christian Unity Hospital, Inc., Grafton; Cooperstown Medical Center; and Mercy Hospital, Valley City. To increase the number of rural and public hospitals participating in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) 5 Million Lives Campaign, the Cardinal Health Foundation granted \$537,000 to 37 hospitals that enroll and report their data to IHI. Hospitals will receive an average of \$15,000 each to help deepen their commitment and ability to implement IHI initiatives, aimed at protecting patients from five million incidents of medical harm over two years (December 2006 – December 2008).

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Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes Campaign

Free educational resources are available by visiting the Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes campaign website at <http://www.nhqualitycampaign.org>. These resources provide evidence-based information in support of all eight Advancing Excellence campaign goals. Since October 2006, 26 nursing homes in North Dakota have publicly declared their commitment to quality by joining the campaign. To register visit the campaign website and click on "Nursing Home Registration."

STAR Website Has Updated QM Data

The quality measure data on the STAR website at <http://www.nhqi-star.org> have been updated. Quality measure data can be viewed on the Public QM Data page, Target Summary page, or the Data Comparison graph pages. Nursing homes can log onto the site and see the latest state and national scores. Each data update provides the opportunity for nursing homes to share progress reports with their staff, families, board of directors, or others, as appropriate. Nursing homes may also update their account with a new target to further ongoing quality improvement efforts.

State's Nursing Homes Improve Care

The nursing homes participating in NDHCRI's Identified Participant Group improved their performance on the four quality measures that were the focus of the quality improvement initiative: high-risk pressure ulcers, physical restraints, chronic care pain, and depression. At present time, the performance of North Dakota's nursing homes ranks 3rd best in the nation for pressure ulcers, 11th for chronic pain, 12th for physical restraints, and 47th for depression.

CMS Thanks NDHCRI for Mentoring Other QIOs

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently thanked the staff of NDHCRI's nursing home and home health quality improvement teams for participating as a QIO mentor during the 8th Scope of Work. The mentoring program is designed to match QIOs that may benefit from assistance with other QIOs that have demonstrated high performance and expertise in the specific subtask.

Home Health Agencies Receive Quality Awards

Several home health agencies recently received NDHCRI-sponsored Quality Awards. Gold Awards were given to Hill Top Home Health in Killdeer, Sakakawea Home Health Care in Hazen, Professional Home Care in Bismarck, and Prairieland Home Care in Fargo. Silver Awards were presented to Sakakawea Home Health Care in Hazen, MeritCare Home Care in Fargo, and Ashley Medical Center Home Health. Blue Awards were given to Prairieland Home Care in Rugby, MeritCare Home Care in Fargo, and Ashley Medical Center Home Health.

Home Health Quality Initiative Tip

The Best Practices Intervention Package—Patient Self-Management is now available at <http://www.homehealthquality.org>. This package theme is "Building Upon the Basics" which builds upon previous interventions. The next three packages, Patient Self-Management, Disease Management, and Transitional Care Coordination, will assist agencies to advance their level of patient care.

Home Health PPS Changes for 2008

Got questions about how the HH PPS is changing in 2008? See Cahaba GBA's new web page, http://www.cahabagba.com/part_a/education_and_outreach/educational_materials/hha_refine_pps.htm, to access informational resources, including FAQs, along with a summary of the final PPS refinement changes compared to current HH PPS requirements. Cahaba GBA is the Medicare Part A Intermediary for North Dakota.

Changes to Medicaid Preauthorization

Effective January 1, 2008, North Dakota Medicaid will provide reimbursement for placement of adjustable gastric band, ICD-9-CM code 44.95 and CPT procedure code 43770, for procedures that meet required criteria. Updated preauthorization reference cards are available for download on the NDHCRI website by following this link: http://www.ndhcric.org/Medicaid/Preauthorization_Reference_Card_0108.pdf. For more information, contact the NDHCRI review department at 701-852-4231.