

Center for Medicaid, CHIP, and Survey & Certification/Survey & Certification Group

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DATE: April 22, 2011

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: New Initiative: *Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs*

Memorandum Summary

The Partnership Initiative: *Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs* is a new public-private partnership that brings together leaders of major hospitals, employers, health plans, physicians, nurses, and patient advocates, along with State and Federal governments, in a shared effort to make hospital care safer, more reliable, and less costly.

Goals: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will support new efforts to:

- **Keep hospital patients from getting injured or sicker.** By the end of 2013, preventable hospital-acquired conditions would decrease by 40-percent compared to 2010.
- **Help patients heal without complication.** By the end of 2013, preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another would be decreased so that all hospital readmissions would be reduced by 20-percent compared to 2010.

Background

Doctors, nurses and other health care providers in America work incredibly hard every day to deliver the best care possible to their patients. Unfortunately, too many patients are harmed by medical mistakes in the health care system and far too many die prematurely as a result.

On April 12, 2011 Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and CMS Administrator Donald Berwick announced the *Partnership for Patients: Better Care, Lower Costs*, a new public-private partnership that will help improve the quality, safety and affordability of health care for all Americans. The *Partnership for Patients* brings together leaders of major hospitals, employers, health plans, physicians, nurses, and patient advocates along with State and Federal governments in a shared effort to make hospital care safer, more reliable, and less costly. The *Partnership* will help save 60,000 lives by stopping millions of preventable injuries and complications in patient care over the next three years and has the potential to save up to \$35 billion, including up to \$10 billion for Medicare. Over the next ten years, it could reduce costs to Medicare by about \$50 billion and result in billions more in Medicaid savings. Already, more than 500 hospitals, as

well as physicians and nurses groups, consumer groups, and employers, have pledged their commitment to the new initiative.

Two goals of this new partnership are:

- ***Keep patients from getting injured or sicker.*** By the end of 2013, preventable hospital-acquired conditions would **decrease by 40%** compared to 2010. Achieving this goal would mean approximately 1.8 million fewer injuries to patients, with more than **60,000 lives saved** over the next three years.
- ***Help patients heal without complication.*** By the end of 2013, preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another would be decreased so that all hospital readmissions would be **reduced by 20%** compared to 2010. Achieving this goal would mean more than **1.6 million patients** will recover from illness without suffering a preventable complication requiring re-hospitalization within 30 days of discharge.

For additional information about the Partnership for Patients, visit:
<http://www.healthcare.gov/center/programs/partnership/>

For a fact sheet on the initiative, visit
www.HealthCare.gov/news/factsheets/partnership04122011a.html.

For the press release issued by HHS on, visit
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/04/20110412a.html>

If you plan to release a statement about the *Partnership*, please share it with HHS by sending it to partnershipforpatients@hhs.gov. If you have any additional questions, please contact partnershipforpatients@hhs.gov.

Survey & Certification Role

CMS, States, and Accrediting Organizations conduct thousands of onsite surveys of hospitals each year. The surveys play an important role in identifying areas that need improvement. In FY 2011 and FY 2012 CMS will work with States, hospitals, accrediting organizations, patient advocacy organizations and others to improve methods by which problem areas can be identified and remedied effectively. In addition to infection control and discharge planning as focal points for such efforts, we especially plan to work on ways to strengthen the internal capability of hospitals to identify issues and remedy problems through ongoing quality assessment and performance improvement programs (QAPI). Later in 2011 we will communicate the steps we plan to initiate to more secure stakeholder involvement, pre-test methods, recruit volunteer States and volunteer hospitals, and coordinate with technical assistance activities.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management