

**Connecticut Department of Public Health –
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Hospital Public Reporting Collaboration**

**CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES
FACT SHEET
February 18, 2004**

Quality health care for people with Medicare is a high priority for President Bush, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). In November 2001, HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the Quality Initiative, his commitment to assure quality health care for all Americans through published consumer information coupled with health care quality improvement support through Medicare's Quality Improvement Organizations.

The CMS Hospital Quality Initiative, launched in 2003, uses a variety of tools to stimulate and support a significant improvement in the quality of hospital care. The initiative aims to refine and standardize hospital data, data transmission, and performance measures in order to construct a single robust, prioritized and standard quality measure set for hospitals. The ultimate goal is that all private and public purchasers, oversight and accrediting entities, payers and providers of hospital care would use the same measures in their public reporting activities. Among the tools we will use to achieve this objective are collaborations with providers, purchasers and consumers, technical support from Quality Improvement Organizations, research and development of standardized measures, and commitment to assuring compliance with our conditions of participation.

Overview

The Connecticut Department of Public Health – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Hospital Public Reporting Collaboration is part of the CMS Hospital Quality Initiative. During the spring of 2002, the Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation creating a State Program for Quality in Health Care within the Department of Public Health (DPH). The legislation mandates the measurement and public reporting of patient satisfaction and clinical performance of all licensed hospitals in the state. By April 2004, the Commissioner of the DPH shall prepare a public report that compares hospitals on clinical performance and patient satisfaction.

Purpose

The purpose of the Connecticut DPH-CMS Hospital Public Reporting Collaboration is to align Connecticut's state requirements with current federal public reporting activities. Connecticut's legislated mandate, the current activities of CMS and others, and the implementation timelines of each, present a unique opportunity to align a state's hospital public reporting activities from their inception with those of federal initiatives. Connecticut's participation will further enable CMS to widely disseminate lessons learned about the least burdensome and most cost-effective ways for hospitals to move

quickly towards public reporting and it will demonstrate the value of CMS and DPH working together. The state's Quality Improvement Organization, Qualidigm, will be a key third partner, providing technical assistance and information flow. CMS endorsement of the Connecticut hospital public reporting program will demonstrate that CMS and the Connecticut DPH are working together to further hospital quality improvement and to align and maximize the impact of both Connecticut's state mandate and CMS's public reporting activities.

Strategy

This special project will support the early transition of Connecticut hospitals to self-generated quality of care data for public reporting. As part of this initiative, all of Connecticut's 30 non-Federal general acute care hospitals will:

- Collect and submit all-payer data to DPH and CMS for public reporting of the same 10 performance measures that are in the 'starter set' of the National Voluntary Hospital Reporting Initiative and CMS's Three State Hospital Pilot Project (see Fact Sheets at www.cms.hhs.gov/quality/hospital).
- Participate in the pilot testing of a Patient Perspectives on Care Survey, HCAHPS, which is being developed by AHRQ in collaboration with CMS.
- Work closely with Qualidigm and CMS to align the next phases of public reporting.

By aligning state and federal efforts, this collaboration is expected to minimize burden and duplication, and to help standardize public reporting in an environment with an increasing state legislative requirement for transparency in hospital quality performance. It will also supplement information obtained from other current CMS hospital public reporting initiatives that will be used in the development of a national hospital public reporting strategy.