



HEALTH RESEARCH &  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST  
In Partnership with AHA

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **HRET Awarded Contract to Promote Hospitals' Use of AHRQ Patient Safety Resources**

CHICAGO—May 28, 2009—The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has awarded a 20-month contract to the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET), an affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). Under the new \$1.8 million contract, HRET will develop novel methods to encourage hospitals, health systems, and policy makers to implement AHRQ safety and quality products and tools.

Reports by the Institute of Medicine in 1999 and 2000 estimated that as many as 98,000 people die each year in the U.S. as the result of medical errors. A core priority of AHRQ is to improve the safety of health care. While AHRQ has developed many toolkits and educational resources to improve quality and safety, broader use of these resources is needed to maximize their impact.

“AHRQ has exhibited great leadership in making safety improvement resources broadly available to all hospitals and health systems,” said HRET president Maulik S. Joshi, DrPH, a senior advisor on the project. “HRET is honored to work with AHRQ to take the field to the next level and encourage wider use of resources that have proven to be effective.”

During the 20-month project, HRET will work with AHA affiliates, state hospital associations, quality improvement organizations, and an advisory panel of experts to provide free assistance to hospitals, health systems, and policy makers. The project will begin June 1.

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#### **About the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)**

Founded in 1944, the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is a private, not-for-profit organization involved in research, education, and demonstration programs addressing health management and policy issues. An affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA), HRET collaborates with health care, government, academic, business, and community organizations across the United States to conduct research and disseminate findings that shape the future of health care. For more information about HRET, visit [www.hret.org](http://www.hret.org).

#### **About the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)**

AHRQ's mission is to improve the quality, safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of health care for all Americans. For more information, visit [www.ahrq.gov](http://www.ahrq.gov).