



HEALTH RESEARCH &
EDUCATIONAL TRUST
In Partnership with AHA

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NEWS RELEASE

HRET Awarded Hospital Engagement Network Contract to Improve Patient Care *Contract is designed to improve patient care and cut readmissions*

CHICAGO – December 15, 2011 – The Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET), an affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA), has been awarded a contract by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to support their Partnership for Patients (PPF) campaign. The project will help hospitals adopt new practices that have the potential to reduce inpatient harm by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent over the contract.

The PPF will focus on ten areas for quality improvement. Within these areas, HRET will support the implementation of proven best practices and lessons learned through the use of webinars and educational sessions to hospitals participating in the partnership. HRET will provide this education and training with the nearly 2,000 hospitals recruited by its 34 state hospital association partners in support of their quality improvement efforts in the targeted areas.

“This contract will allow hospitals to continue to build on the improvements they have made pursuing better patient outcomes,” said Rich Umbdenstock, president and CEO of the AHA. “The work that HRET and the state hospital associations will be engaged in will bring about real improvements to the care provided to patients and raise the bar for all hospitals in their quality improvement efforts.”

HRET, through AHA’s Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence strategy, has helped national and local hospital leaders achieve measurable health care improvements. Although ongoing data and feedback will refine planned strategies for the Hospital Engagement Network Contract, successful strategies will include fellowship programs, site visits and information exchanges. Hospitals participating in the partnership will have access to content and learning opportunities in ten areas of focus identified by the PPF:

(more)

- Adverse drug events (ADE)
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)
- Central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI)
- Injuries from falls and immobility
- Obstetrical adverse events
- Pressure ulcers
- Surgical site infections
- Venous thromboembolism (VTE)
- Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP)
- Preventable readmissions

“We are extremely excited and honored to have been selected and know that it would not have been possible without the support of our many partners,” said Maulik Joshi, president of HRET and senior vice president for AHA. “Our focus at HRET is on accelerating performance improvement for the hospital field and this effort will advance that effort and offer hospitals new tools and resources to further the high quality care they already provide.”

For more information on the project, visit www.healthcare.gov/compare/partnership-for-patients, or www.hret.org.

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Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)

Founded in 1944, the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is the not-for-profit research and education affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET’s mission is to transform health care through research and education. HRET’s applied research seeks to create new knowledge, tools, and assistance in improving the delivery of health care by providers in the communities they serve. For more information about HRET, visit www.hret.org.