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NEWS RELEASE

HRET Awarded AHRQ ACTION II Contract

CHICAGO—October 19, 2010—The Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) has been awarded an “Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Networks” (ACTION II) contract from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The goal of the ACTION II contract is to promote and accelerate the development, implementation, dissemination, and sustainability of evidence-based innovation in health care delivery and organization to measurably improve health care in the U.S. Inclusion in the ACTION II Network will allow HRET to strengthen its collaborations with health systems, state hospital associations, and academic partners and to expand HRET’s capacity to perform applied research and dissemination projects related to its organizational mission.

AHRQ awarded ACTION II Network contracts to seventeen partnership teams that encompass over 350 organizations. HRET’s team includes 39 state hospital associations, eleven health systems that collectively provide care to millions of patients each year, as well as eight academic or research-based institutions. “This partnership uniquely equips HRET to perform practice-based implementation research in areas of critical importance,” said Maulik Joshi, HRET president. “We’re honored AHRQ has chosen HRET to remain in the ACTION Network for an additional five years so that we can continue leading critical national projects to prevent health care associated infections, improve emergency department flow, and equip hospitals to effectively use health information technology.”

HRET first became a part of ACTION in 2006 and has obtained over \$20 million in contracts through the Network to conduct applied research and implementation projects including national initiatives to reduce central line associated infections and catheter acquired urinary tract infections in hospitals. Through its affiliation with the American Hospital Association and state hospital associations across the country, HRET has been able to recruit and engage hundreds of hospitals and health systems in projects that are reducing infections and preventing unnecessary deaths. “It’s a privilege to work with our partners from across the country on these vital projects,” said Dr. Joshi, “and we are honored that AHRQ has recognized the good work that our team has done by awarding us a new ACTION II contract.”

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About HRET

Founded in 1944, the Health Research and 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, 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.