



HEALTH RESEARCH &
EDUCATIONAL TRUST
In Partnership with AHA

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NEWS RELEASE

HRET Awarded Two New Contracts from AHRQ

Efforts will reduce surgical site infections, complications and improve patient care

CHICAGO – January 15, 2013 – Today it was announced that the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) of the American Hospital Association (AHA) has been awarded two contracts by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Respectively the objectives of the contracts are to reduce surgical site infections and other surgical complications and to improve patient care in the primary care setting by strengthening teamwork among primary care teams.

“These contracts are further demonstration of the continued work and success of HRET and AHA to advance patient care and promote best care practices,” said Maulik Joshi, president of HRET and senior vice president of AHA. “We are eager to begin these projects since they validate and build upon existing work that has dramatically improved care to all.”

To improve care around the surgical suite the objective will be to carry out an effective national implementation of a proven surgical safety checklist and development and implementation of a program to improve ambulatory surgery safety. The AHRQ ambulatory surgery safety project will adapt the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP), which has been used to reduce other healthcare-associated infections, and apply it to reduce surgical site infections and other surgical complications.

The improvement of patient care in the primary care setting will be achieved by strengthening teamwork among primary care teams. The project will build on the success of Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS®), which was jointly developed by AHRQ and the Department of Defense Patient Safety Program as a system to train health care workers in the skills needed to function as a safe and effective team. Using the recently developed TeamSTEPPS® primary care office module, a primary care TeamSTEPPS® training kit will be developed that will serve as the underpinning for the national implementation of TeamSTEPPS® in primary care settings.

Both contracts will be administered by HRET in partnership with others. For more information visit 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. It focuses on identifying and exploring key issues affecting the health care delivery system. HRET's applied research focuses on improving quality, eliminating disparities, improving care coordination, improving leadership and governance, conducting data analysis and supporting the spread of improvement. Through AHA's Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence (HPOE) strategy, HRET has helped hospital leaders to accelerate performance improvement by disseminating best practices, producing actionable reports and toolkits, conducting leadership development programs and implementing national improvement projects. For more information, visit www.hret.org.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

AHRQ's mission is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. The research sponsored, conducted, and disseminated by AHRQ provides information that helps people make better decisions about health care.