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NEWS RELEASE

HRET Offers Insights into National Quality Improvement Projects *Paper presented as part of larger AHRQ report*

CHICAGO – August 21, 2014 – A paper, *Strengthening National Efforts to Reduce Healthcare-Associated Infections*, notes that national improvement campaigns to reduce health care-associated infections are demonstrating promising results but still need to become more efficient and effective. As part of *Advances in the Prevention and Control of HAIs*, a report by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) of the American Hospital Association (AHA) authored this paper on key lessons from its national efforts to reduce healthcare-associated infections.

HRET has led multiple national improvement efforts funded by AHRQ that have provided key insights into how to successfully plan and execute large quality improvement initiatives. They include:

- Leaders must recognize not all changes constitute improvements and must carefully assess and foster only the activities linked to the targeted outcomes.
- Leaders must recognize that some changes can spread rapidly without a national campaign and must adapt to an external environment that can shift quickly.
- Factors that affect how quickly changes will spread can be identified and leveraged to plan more successful campaigns.
- Leaders of large scale improvement efforts must define their role as managing the effort rather than speeding change implementation.

“We appreciate AHRQ’s efforts to produce a series a papers that provide valuable insights into how health care-associated infections can be reduced, said Steve Hines, PhD, chief research officer, HRET. “AHRQ’s support of large national improvement projects has both reduced HAIs and yielded important insights into how national campaigns can become more effective and efficient. HRET is working very hard to apply these lessons to the campaigns we are leading for AHRQ and CMS.”

Advances in the Prevention and Control of HAIs, presents methodological insights from projects in AHRQ's Healthcare-Associated Infections Program. The 19 individual papers were prepared by AHRQ-funded health-care-associated infections project leaders. To view the report or individual papers visit <http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/patient-safety-resources/resources/advances-in-hai/index.html>.

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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.