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NEWS RELEASE

AHRQ Awards Contract to HRET to Continue National TeamSTEPPS® Training Centers

CHICAGO – November 3, 2011 – The Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) has been awarded a \$3.4 million, 3-year contract by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to support the promotion of AHRQ’s TeamSTEPPS program. TeamSTEPPS, which stands for Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety, is a set of evidence-based, practical tools that helps hospitals and other health care providers strengthen teamwork among caregivers with the goal of improving patient safety. HRET is the research and education affiliate of the American Hospital Association.

For health care providers—including hospitals, long-term care facilities, and physician office practices—teamwork is a top priority; however, changing culture and behavior of an organization can be challenging. Working together as an innovative partnership, AHRQ and the Department of Defense (DOD) designed the TeamSTEPPS program specifically for health care providers for use in a variety of care settings.

HRET will coordinate the efforts of a network of national TeamSTEPPS training centers, facilitate a learning network that will equip master trainers to improve teamwork within their facilities, facilitate an annual meeting, and update and expand free TeamSTEPPS materials for provider use. These sessions will prepare new master trainers for health care providers or focus on specific training and implementation methods on how to overcome teamwork challenges.

HRET is partnering with Booz Allen and IMPAQ International on this important initiative. Booz Allen currently supports TeamSTEPPS training, implementation and sustainment in DoD facilities worldwide while IMPAQ staff led the development of TeamSTEPPS resources, including the website. Their expertise, coupled with HRET’s extensive understanding of hospital needs and experience facilitating TeamSTEPPS trainings nationwide, provides a partnership capable of extending the impact of AHRQ’s ongoing TeamSTEPPS support.

“HRET is delighted that AHRQ has awarded this important project to us and our partners,” said Maulik S. Joshi, DrPH, president of HRET. “We believe that improved teamwork is vital to improving patient care and creating the efficient, high quality health care system that the United States wants and needs. With two strong organizational partners—Booz Allen and IMPAQ—as well as the support and input of health care providers, we are confident that we can achieve AHRQ’s ambitious goals for this contract. The initial one-year contract begins in September 2011 and has options that extend through August 2014.

For more information about TeamSTEPPS, visit: <http://teamstepps.ahrq.gov/>

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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.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) mission is to improve the quality, safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of health care for all Americans. Information from AHRQ's research helps people make more informed decisions and improve the quality of health care services. AHRQ was formerly known as the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research.