



ISMP Receives Grant to Assess Medication Safety Practices in U.S. Hospitals

May 13, 2010 Huntingdon Valley, PA – The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) has received a grant from the Commonwealth Fund to resurvey U.S. hospitals regarding their medication safety practices. ISMP will again partner with the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) and the American Hospital Association (AHA) on the self assessment survey, as it did for those conducted in 2000 and 2004.

The 2010 ISMP Medication Safety Self-Assessment® will document the progress of U.S. hospitals during the last five years of intense national attention to medication safety and identify the impact of new and emerging challenges, such as staffing shortages, shrinking reimbursement systems, and the application of new technology.

The self assessments are designed to provide healthcare organizations with a way to evaluate their medication safety practices, identify opportunities for improvement, and compare their experiences over time with the aggregate experience of demographically similar organizations. More than 1,600 hospitals participated in the 2004 assessment, and many were able to chart their progress over the last four years by comparing results with their responses to the 2000 survey.

Several national medication safety initiatives have been based on data from ISMP's previous self assessments, and other countries have adopted the survey tool to gather information and goals for their own medication safety efforts. In addition, findings from the 2000 survey were used to design and disseminate comprehensive, free Pathways for Medication Safety® tools to help hospital leaders and clinicians reduce the risk of medication errors.

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The 2010 medication safety self assessment survey is currently slated to be launched this fall. As with past surveys, hospitals will be invited to participate anonymously via a secure, password protected online website. All participants will have unlimited opportunity to access, view, and download their own scores throughout the period of data collection.

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is an independent, nonprofit charitable organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, consumers, and professional organizations to provide education about medication errors and their prevention. ISMP represents more than 35 years of experience in helping healthcare practitioners keep patients safe, and continues to lead efforts to improve the medication use process. For more information on ISMP, or its medication safety alert newsletters and other tools for healthcare professionals and consumers, visit www.ismp.org.

Health Research and Educational Trust

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. HRET, an American Hospital Association affiliate, 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. Visit HRET's Web site at www.hret.org.

American Hospital Association

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations that are committed to health improvement in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which include almost 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care. Founded in 1898, AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA Web site at www.aha.org.

The Commonwealth Fund

The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation supporting independent research on health policy reform and a high performance health system. For additional information, visit www.commonwealthfund.org.

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