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NEWS RELEASE

New Funding Available to States to Eliminate Bloodstream Infections in Hospitals

CHICAGO – July 20, 2010 – HRET today announced that a total of \$5.8 million in funding is available for states that are participating in a national project to implement the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) and reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections in hospitals. The funding, provided by the Department of Health & Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), will be disbursed by HRET to states that participate in the *On the CUSP: Stop BSI* initiative.

The initiative is currently operating in more than 1,100 hospital units in 30 states to implement CUSP, a program that has been proven effective in improving organizational culture, and to reduce or eliminate central line-associated bloodstream infections. AHRQ, which initially funded this project in 10 states in 2008, has provided additional funding to expand this important effort to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. This initiative is led by HRET in partnership with the Johns Hopkins University Quality & Safety Research Group and the Michigan Health & Hospital Association Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality. HRET is an affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA).

“This program is proven to save lives and reduce health care costs,” said AHA President Rich Umbdenstock. “That’s why the AHA has encouraged every state to participate in this vital, life-saving initiative, and we salute the states and hospitals that are already part of *On the CUSP: Stop BSI*.”

The new \$5.8 million will allow participating and new states to apply for up to \$70,000 over a two-year project period to cover part-time staffing needs. In addition, AHRQ is providing supplemental funding to support the project.

“We are excited that hospitals have embraced the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program concept for eliminating health care-associated infections,” said AHRQ Director Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D. “This new funding will greatly enhance their work and all our efforts to reduce the likelihood of infection and harm to patients.”

“The *On the CUSP: Stop BSI* team is delighted that state funding has been approved,” said John R. Combes, M.D., principal investigator of the national project and AHA Senior Vice President. “This support will go a long way to ensuring the sustainability of state efforts over time.”

Participating states have designated a coordinator who recruits hospitals, serves as the primary link between participating hospitals and the national *On the CUSP: Stop BSI* team, and works to coordinate CUSP actions with other parts of the Department of Health and Human Services HAI initiative.

“AHRQ continues to exhibit tremendous leadership in this large scale effort to reduce health care-associated infections,” said Maulik S. Joshi, Dr.P.H., HRET president and AHA senior vice president. “We are very happy that AHRQ is extending the reach of this vital program.”

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About the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET)

Founded in 1944, 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.

About the 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. For more information on AHRQ’s activities in the area of HAIs, visit <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/hais.htm>.