

# **Bending the Cost Curve**

***Health Affairs* Briefing:**

**Fact versus Fiction**

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**American Hospital  
Association**

# AHA Commitment

- Shared Responsibility: Contribute \$155 billion in savings over 10 years
  - Lower payment rates
  - Less money to care for the uninsured (DSH payments) LINKED to expansion in coverage
  - Reduction in readmissions
- Implement ***Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence*** (HPOE) campaign to improve quality and efficiency



# Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence (HPOE) Pledge

## ***Immediate Initiatives:***

1. Reduce surgical infections and complications
2. Reduce central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI)
3. Reduce methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)
4. Reduce clostridium difficile infections (c diff)
5. Reduce ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP)
6. Reduce catheter-associated urinary tract infections
7. Reduce adverse drug events from high-hazard medications (e.g., anticoagulants, narcotics, opiates, insulin, sedatives)
8. Reduce pressure ulcers



# Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence (HPOE) Pledge

## *Longer-term Initiatives*

- **Improving Care Coordination** – Focus in particular on the discharge process and care transitions.
- **Implementing Health Information Technology (HIT)** – Focus on leadership and clinical strategies to effectively implement HIT.
- **Preventing Patient Falls** – Further the implementation of effective fall prevention programs and use of fall risk assessment tools.
- **Improving Perinatal Care** – Promote best practices to improve perinatal care and reduce birth complications.



# Need to Test and Learn

- Voluntary Demonstration Projects
  - Bundled Payments
  - Accountable Care Organizations



# Impact

## Impact on Beneficiaries

- Improved quality of care – preventing infections, avoidable readmissions

## Impact on Healthcare System

- More efficient
- Reducing the rate of cost growth

