



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Connecticut Hospitals Among Those Selected to Continue Improvements in Patient Safety

Hospital Improvement Innovation Networks to continue patient safety improvement efforts started under the Partnership for Patients initiative

Wallingford – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded \$347 million to 16 national, regional, or state hospital associations, Quality Improvement Organizations, and health system organizations to continue efforts in reducing hospital-acquired conditions and readmissions in the Medicare program, including all Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) member hospitals working through the Connecticut Healthcare Research and Education Foundation, Incorporated (CHREF), the 501(c)(3) research, education, and patient safety affiliate of CHA. Participation is through the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) of the American Hospital Association. The Hospital Improvement Innovation Network contracts awarded build upon the collective momentum of the Hospital Engagement Networks and Quality Improvement Organizations to reduce patient harm and readmissions. This announcement is part of a broader effort to transform our healthcare system into one that works better for the American people and for the Medicare program.

“Connecticut hospitals are committed to providing safe, high quality care,” said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. “Through the hospitals’ work with HRET, they have made continuous improvements that are saving lives. We are thrilled that this work has earned additional CMS funding to continue the journey of improvement, and look forward to expanding our efforts for the benefit of Connecticut patients.”

Through 2019, these Hospital Improvement Innovation Networks (HIIN) will work to achieve a 20 percent decrease in overall patient harm and a 12 percent reduction in 30-day hospital readmissions as a population-based measure (readmissions per 1,000 people) from the 2014 baseline. Efforts to address health equity for Medicare beneficiaries will be central to the HIIN efforts. CMS will monitor and evaluate the activities of the Hospital Improvement Innovation Networks to ensure that they are generating results and improving patient safety.

“We have made significant progress in keeping patients safe – an estimated 2.1 million fewer patients harmed, 87,000 lives saved, and nearly \$20 billion in cost-savings from 2010 to 2014 – and we are focused on accelerating improvement efforts,” said Patrick Conway, MD, CMS Acting Principal Deputy Administrator and Chief Medical Officer. “The work of the Hospital Improvement Innovation Networks will allow us to continue to improve healthcare safety across the nation and reduce readmissions at a national scale – keeping people as safe and healthy as possible.”

Connecticut was a consistent top-performing state in these earlier efforts, ending the first project in 2014 in the top quarter. HRET estimated that, over the course of the project, Connecticut reduced events of preventable harm by nine percent. Connecticut hospitals continued this work through 2016.

The 16 organizations (listed in alphabetical order) receiving contracts in the Hospital Improvement Innovation Networks are:

- Carolinas Healthcare System
- Dignity Health
- Healthcare Association of New York State
- HealthInsight
- The Health Research and Educational Trust of the American Hospital Association (through which CHA and Connecticut hospitals are participating)
- Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey
- Health Services Advisory Group
- The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
- Iowa Healthcare Collaborative
- Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Health Foundation
- Minnesota Hospital Association
- Ohio Children's Hospitals' Solutions for Patient Safety
- Ohio Hospital Association
- Premier, Inc.
- Vizient, Inc.
- Washington State Hospital Association

The Partnership for Patients model is one of the first models established in 2011 to be tested under the authority of section 1115A of the Social Security Act (the Act) with the goal of reducing program expenditures while preserving or enhancing the quality of care. Since the launch of the Partnership for Patients and the work of Hospital Engagement Networks in collaboration with many other stakeholders, the vast majority of U.S. hospitals have delivered results as demonstrated by the achievement of unprecedented national reductions in harm. CMS believes that the upcoming work of the Hospital Improvement Innovation Networks, working as part of the Quality Improvement Organization's work to improve patient safety and the quality of care in the Medicare program, will continue the great strides made in improving care provided to beneficiaries.

For more information on this announcement, please visit: <https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2016-Fact-sheets-items/2016-09-29-2.html>.

About CHA

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.