

## CMS Quality Initiatives

### Background

Three key U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) activities that shape the current quality initiatives at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are the:

1. National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care (National Quality Strategy).
2. Partnership for Patients.
3. HHS Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections.

### National Quality Strategy <sup>1</sup>

The National Quality Strategy was developed to establish national priorities and achieve goals with three broad aims:

1. Better health care: *Improve the overall quality by making health care more patient-centered, reliable, accessible, and safe.*
2. Better health for people and communities: *Improve the health of the U.S. population by supporting proven interventions to address behavioral, social, and environmental determinants of health in addition to delivering high-quality care.*
3. Lower costs through improvement (affordable care): *Reduce the cost of quality health care for individuals, families, employers, and government.*

Six priorities that build on the broad aims of the National Quality Strategy include:

1. Making care safer.
2. Promoting effective coordination of care.
3. Ensuring that care is person- and family-centered.
4. Promoting the best preventions and treatments of the leading causes of mortality, starting with cardiovascular disease.
5. Helping communities support better health.
6. Making care more affordable for individuals, families, employers, and governments by reducing the costs of care through continual improvement.

### Partnership for Patients<sup>2</sup>

Goals:

1. **Keep patients from getting injured or sicker.** By the end of 2013, preventable hospital-acquired conditions would **decrease by 40 percent** compared with 2010.
2. **Help patients heal without complication.** By the end of 2013, preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another would be decreased so that all hospital readmissions would be **reduced by 20 percent** compared with 2010.

#### Partnership Focuses:

1. Adverse Drug Events (ADEs)
2. Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIs)
3. Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSIs)
4. Injuries from Falls and Immobility
5. Obstetrical Adverse Events
6. Pressure Ulcers
7. Surgical Site Infections (SSIs)
8. Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)
9. Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP)
10. Other Hospital-Acquired Conditions

#### **HHS Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs)<sup>3</sup>**

Infections that patients acquire while receiving treatment for medical or surgical conditions take a significant toll on human life and health care dollars.

1. It is estimated that HAIs are responsible for an estimated \$28 to \$33 billion in excess health care costs each year.
2. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that at least 1.7 million HAIs occur each year, which result in 99,000 deaths.
3. Four categories of infections account for approximately three quarters of HAIs. These four categories are: CLABSIs, CAUTIs, SSIs, and VAP.

#### **CMS Quality Initiative Aims**

CMS developed its quality initiative Aims to build on the HHS activities to improve health and health care for all Medicare beneficiaries and promote quality of care to ensure the right care at the right time, every time. Quality Improvement Organizations will serve an essential role in helping to achieve the goals of the national activities by working with hospitals, nursing homes, other health care providers, patients, families, caregivers, and many community partners to achieve these goals at local levels in their communities. The tasks of the CMS quality initiative Aims are outlined below:

#### **Beneficiary and Family Centered Care**

- ✓ Case Review
- ✓ Patient and Family Engagement Activities

### **Improving Individual Patient Care**

- ✓ Reduction of HAIs
- ✓ Reduction of Healthcare-Acquired Conditions (HACs)
- ✓ Reduction of ADEs
- ✓ Quality Reporting and Improvement

### **Integrating Care for Populations and Communities**

- ✓ Improving Care Transitions Leading to a Reduction of Hospital Readmissions

### **Improving Health for Populations and Communities**

- ✓ Promotion of Immunizations and Screenings
- ✓ Cardiovascular Health Campaign

Just ask Health Services Advisory Group of California, Inc., (the state's Quality Improvement Organization) for more detailed information about any area in which you wish to participate. You can reach us at (818) 265-4650 or [quality@hsag.com](mailto:quality@hsag.com).

### **Resources for more information:**

- 1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *National Quality Strategy for Improvement in Health Care*. Available at <http://www.healthcare.gov/center/reports/quality03212011a.html>.**
- 2. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Partnerships for Patients*. Available at <http://www.healthcare.gov/center/programs/partnership/index.html>.**
- 3. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *HHS Action Plan to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections*. Available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ash/initiatives/hai/infection.html>.**

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