

News



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2003

Connecticut Department of Public Health

Contact: Michael J. Purcaro

(860) 509-7270

100% of State's Hospitals Participating in National Hospital Reporting Initiative

Hartford — The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced that all 30 adult general acute care hospitals in Connecticut are taking part in the National Voluntary Hospital Reporting Initiative. Connecticut was the first state to achieve 100% participation by its hospitals in this voluntary national initiative to build a permanent public resource on hospital performance.

The National Voluntary Hospital Reporting Initiative is the product of a collaborative effort between Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH). CMS launched the first reporting phase of the initiative – an online directory of participating hospitals and their information – on its provider website today.

“Although Connecticut is blessed to have one of the best health care systems in the world, we continuously strive to improve patient care through regulatory oversight, education, and public reporting,” stated Acting DPH Commissioner Norma Gyle, R.N., Ph.D. “We are pleased to be a part of this collaboration between CMS and our partners at a state level, which is promoting hospital quality improvement and strengthening our efforts to improve patient care and outcomes.”

Although the data included in this initial website posting are intended for clinicians' use, the measures will be accessible by the public. The data includes information on 10 hospital clinical performance measures related to the delivery of services that evidence has shown to be effective in the management of acute myocardial infarction (AMI), heart failure, and pneumonia – some of the most prevalent conditions treated by hospitals.

Data from approximately 415 of the 1,700 hospitals participating in the voluntary national initiative will be included in the initial CMS website posting. While all Connecticut hospitals are participating, the initial website posting will only include data from 17 of the 30. Future CMS website postings will include additional hospital data and more consumer-friendly explanations.

Connecticut hospitals' participation in the national initiative also provided a unique opportunity for CMS and DPH to collaborate on a joint quality initiative that would utilize resources efficiently and minimize duplication of effort for all parties involved. DPH approached CMS regarding a Connecticut-specific initiative consistent with the CMS effort and reflective of Connecticut's quality of care initiatives, and, as a result of this request, a collaborative project was developed in conjunction with a national three state CMS pilot project.

This special project not only allows Connecticut to work with CMS to develop nationally standardized hospital performance reporting, but also supports DPH's efforts to create a public report of comparative patient satisfaction and clinical performance measures required by section 19a-127 (l)-(n) of Connecticut General Statutes.

Partnering with DPH on this project are Qualidigm, Connecticut's Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), and the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA).

"Quality care has continuously been on the forefront of the collaborative efforts of Qualidigm, CHA, and the state's acute care hospitals," said Marcia Petrillo, CEO of Qualidigm. "Participation in this special project, as well as the national initiative, illustrates the shared commitment by all to continuously improve the quality of health care delivered to every Connecticut resident."

"Connecticut hospitals are committed to public accountability and to providing the highest quality healthcare to every patient," said Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO of CHA. "We are working actively with CMS, DPH, and Qualidigm to design a system for public reporting of hospital performance that will provide consumers with the consistent, structured information they need to make informed healthcare decisions, and will contribute to improving the quality of patient care in Connecticut."

The CMS hospital Quality Initiative is just one piece of a larger, national quality initiative that also involves the public reporting of both nursing home and home health care information. More information about the initiative and how to access the data can be found on the CMS website: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/quality/hospital/>.

###