

# News



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Connecticut Department of Public Health

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## DPH Issues Quality of Care Program Report

**Hartford** — The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced its Quality of Care program report. The report summarizes the work of DPH's quality of care program, created pursuant to Public Act 02-125 of the General Assembly.

In 2002, DPH worked with the Connecticut General Assembly to develop and implement health care quality legislation (Public Act 02-125) that requires the establishment of a quality of care program, as well as the measurement and public reporting of patient satisfaction and clinical performance of all licensed hospitals in the state.

This legislation is consistent with a number of health care quality initiatives implemented by DPH through a comprehensive approach to regulation, research, education, and partnerships. DPH recently established a new Office of Health Care Quality and Best Practices, promoted consumer and provider education around health care quality, and launched initiatives such as the web-based Physician Profiles to provide the public with greater access to regulatory information.

A Quality in Health Care Advisory Committee, chaired by the DPH commissioner, advises the Quality of Care program on its activities. The advisory committee, whose membership is determined by Public Act 02-125, is comprised of representatives of DPH and other state agencies, hospitals, health plans, patient advocates, physicians, academia, business, and others interested in and involved with the quality of health care.

The advisory committee convened in August 2002 and established the following subcommittees and workgroups:

<b>Sub-Committees and Workgroups</b>
(1) Health Promotion and Prevention
(2) Continuum of Care
(3) Regulations
(4) Promotion of Quality and Safe Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Working Group I Hospital Performance Comparisons</li><li>▪ Working Group II Patient Satisfaction Survey</li><li>▪ Working Group III Best Practices</li><li>▪ Working Group IV Adverse Event Reporting</li></ul>

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Summaries of each subcommittee and workgroup are available within the report. The subcommittees and workgroups have made recommendations on a number of quality of care issues for review and action by the full Quality in Health Care Advisory committee.

The report also describes the DPH partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) on hospital quality of care reporting. The partnership supports Connecticut hospitals' efforts to comply with the public reporting of comparative patient satisfaction and clinical performance measures mandated by Public Act 02-125. It also supports the national Hospital Quality Information Initiative under development by CMS. Although the national initiative is voluntary, recently all 30 adult general acute care hospitals in Connecticut pledged their participation, making Connecticut the first state to report 100% participation.

The Quality of Care report is the second in a series of reports published by DPH as part of its quality of care program. The first report, issued in March 2003, provided information about Adverse Event reporting. Additional reports are forthcoming, including a quality of care report for hospitals that compares all licensed hospitals in the state based on quality performance measures developed under the quality of care program (due April, 2004).

For a copy of the full Quality of Care program report, as well as additional information about DPH's quality of health care program and activities, please visit the DPH website at [www.dph.state.ct.us](http://www.dph.state.ct.us)

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