

## Oregon Hospitals Partner with National Experts to Drive Patient Care

**By Diane Waldo, MBA, BSN, RN, CPHQ, CPHRM, LNCC**  
*Director of Quality & Clinical Services  
Oregon Association of Hospitals  
& Health Systems*



Doctors, nurses and other health care providers in America work incredibly hard to deliver the best care possible to their patients. However, patients are still at risk of being harmed by medical errors. In order to provide safe care, hospitals across the state are involved in dozens upon dozens of patient safety and quality initiatives. One such is the new Partnership for Patients program.

The Centers for Medicare and Med-

icaid Services launched Partnership for Patients, a public-private partnership that will help improve the quality, safety and affordability of health care for all patients. The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems is a partner in this initiative, which brings together hospital leaders, employers, physicians, nurses, and patient advocates to help make hospital care safer, more reliable, and less costly.

Part of this new venture involves becoming a “Hospital Engagement Network.” OAHHS joined forces with the Health Research and Education Trust (HRET) of the American Hospital Association as a Hospital Engagement Network, which provides resources to help Oregon health care providers improve safety and quality while reducing health care costs. As a Network, HRET and OAHHS will develop education and training resources to share successes in quality improvement. Our Hospital Engagement Network will be closely monitored by CMS to ensure that we are truly improving quality and patient safety.

The Partnership for Patients focuses on two primary goals:

1. Keep patients from getting injured or sicker. The goal is to decrease preventable hospital-acquired conditions by 40 percent by 2013.
2. Help patients heal without complication. The goal is to decrease by 20 percent preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another. Achieving this goal would mean that patients can recover from illness without suffering a preventable complication requiring re-hospitalization within 30 days of discharge.

This is particularly important for patients with multiple chronic conditions. Safe, effective and efficient care transitions require thoughtful collaboration among health care providers, hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities, social service providers, patient caregivers, and patients themselves.

OAHHS is one of 26 state, regional, national and hospital system organizations to become a Hospital Engagement Network. Working nationwide on patient safety objectives, we have the potential to save lives and prevent injuries to millions

of Americans, as well as save up to \$35 billion across the health care system in the United States, including up to \$10 billion in Medicare savings over the next three years.

Over the next 10 years, this could reduce costs to Medicare by about \$50 billion and result in billions more in Medicaid savings. This will help put our nation on the path toward a more sustainable health care system.

Being designated as a Hospital Engagement Network means we will have new resources and support to make health care safer by targeting and reducing preventable injuries and complications from health care-acquired conditions. As a Hospital Engagement Network, we will help identify solutions already working to reduce health care-acquired conditions, and work to spread them to other hospitals and health care providers.

We will also work toward:

- Developing learning collaboratives to provide a wide array of initiatives and activities to improve patient safety
- Conducting intensive training programs to teach and support hospitals in making patient care safer
- Providing technical assistance to hospitals so that they can achieve quality measurement goals
- Establishing and implement a system to track and monitor hospital progress in meeting quality improvement goals

We are strategically positioned with our relationship with HRET to provide our hospitals the best tools to fully engage in the Partnership for Patients program. This is a tremen-

dous opportunity for our state and participating hospitals to decrease variation in care and improve clinical outcomes. Most importantly, our patients will benefit from this collaborative work.

*Diane Waldo, MBA, BSN, RN, CPHQ, CPHRM, LNCC, is the Director of Quality and Clinical Services at the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems. She is responsible for developing and coordinating OAHHS's quality programs and initiatives, and serves as the in-house resource on clinical and regulatory issues. Diane is a nurse by training with more than 34 years of health care experience, including acute care, public health, nursing management, quality management, risk management and legal nurse consulting. In addition, she is a current Baldrige examiner for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.*

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