

Alliance Alert



July/August 2010 Update

PHCQA News:

➤ *STS Pilot Project*

PHCQA has started working on a pilot to become one of the first organizations in the nation to make comparable measures from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) national database available for free on a public website. The first phase will involve 4 to 6 hospitals voluntarily making some of their cardiac care data publicly available via the PHCQA website. Clinical measures such as the STS Composite Score, CABG operative mortality, deep sternal wound infection rates, stroke complication rate, and other indicators will be made available in a special section on the PHCQA website. Timing for the launch of the pilot is to be confirmed but the effort is scheduled to coincide with the release of the new CMS data in December 2010. PHCQA has also applied for grant funding to study the use of cardiac care data in health care decision-making.

➤ *Newly Available Data*

The Pennsylvania Health Care Quality Alliance has updated its website pahealthcarequality.org to include the following:

- Q308-Q209 PHC4 Heart Failure Readmission Rate
- Q408-Q309 JC Procedure-Specific SCIP Measures
- Q309 CMS Process Measures
- Q309 HCAHPS Measures
- Q306-Q209 CMS Outcome Measures

➤ *Summer Faces at PHCQA*

Samantha Berger, a fourth year Marketing major from Drexel University, and **Katie Penza**, a senior Health & Societies and Hispanic Studies major from the University of Pennsylvania, have joined the Alliance as interns for the 2010 summer months. The two have been working on analyses of quality performance data, researching the latest quality care improvement opportunities, and expanding marketing efforts to build awareness of PHCQA.

Noteworthy Articles:

- **“Accountability Measures — Using Measurement to Promote Quality Improvement”** – On June 23rd, The New England Journal of Medicine published an article that called on all stakeholders who utilize incentives to promote quality in hospitals and health systems to adopt a framework for accountability when developing quality measures. Click [here](#) to read this article.
- **“Number of Americans Who Go Online For Healthcare Information Hits Record High”** – This article discusses the unprecedented increase in health care consumers in 2010 that turned to the internet as a means of obtaining health information. Click [here](#) to read more.

From The Executive Director:



The Pennsylvania Health Care Quality Alliance continues to make progress in helping to build a consistent, statewide approach to health care quality measurement and reporting in Pennsylvania.

In June, PHCQA entered into a partnership with Aligning Forces for Quality in South Central Pennsylvania (AF4Q SPCA) to allow use of PHCQA's reporting infrastructure to display inpatient hospital data for York and Adams County. Integration of PHCQA's software with the AF4Q SPCA website will allow PHCQA's inpatient quality data to be viewed alongside the comprehensive ambulatory care quality measures already in place on the AF4Q SPCA website.

In July, PHCQA was invited to submit a full grant proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation following a screening process which selected PHCQA and 40 others out of 277 preliminary applications. The RWJF grant would fund a variety of focus groups and physician / consumer surveys to assess the impact of public reporting on cardiac care decision-making. Final grant decisions are expected in September.

Later this month PHCQA will be releasing a “State of the State” report which summarize some of the impressive results that PA hospitals have been able to achieve over the past three years.

On behalf of PHCQA, I would like to thank you for your continued interest and support of our efforts.

-Erik Muther

Call for Site Nominations: VTE Prophylaxis Performance Improvement Project

The ACCP is issuing a call for nominations to recruit 15 hospital sites to be enrolled in the VTE Prophylaxis Performance Improvement Project. All types of hospitals with medical ICUs or mixed ICUs are encouraged to apply. Each site will receive \$10,000 to participate in the study. Participants also will have the opportunity to receive CME and apply for Maintenance of Certification credit.

Application deadline: Friday, August 27, 2010, at 5:00 pm (CT)

[Learn More and Submit Applications](#)