

Hello!

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Winter/Spring 2008 Issue of Quality Source Coming Soon

In this issue of *Quality Source*, we introduce you to a new movement among the healthcare community to make quality and cost more transparent.

We also discuss the methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) problem in Tennessee and statewide workshops aimed at reducing pressure ulcers in nursing homes.

Also, QSource has given its Web site a new look.

[Click here to subscribe to Quality Source and check out our new site...](#)

NURSING HOME NEWS



New Report Examines Diabetes in Nursing Homes

A new report by the Institute for the Future of Aging Services shows that one in four U.S. nursing home residents aged 65 and older has diabetes. This report also examined the association between diabetes and ethnicity, activities of daily living, source of admission, payment sources, length of stay, pressure ulcers, emergency department visits and medication usage. [Download](#) the report.

HOME HEALTH NEWS

Message from the Home Health Program Manager: Update on ACH and Oral Meds



December 2007 data shows that the

statewide rates for acute care hospitalization (ACH) and management of oral medications improved.

The statewide ACH rate in November was 32.31 percent and in December 32.21 percent.

The statewide rate for oral meds improved slightly from 45.16 percent in November to 45.17 percent in December.

ACH Target Achievers

QSource is proud to recognize agencies that have achieved their target rate for acute care hospitalization set by CMS. [Click here](#) to view the featured agencies.

CDC Finds Pneumonia Rates Decreasing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found a significant decrease in rates of invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) in all age groups, but still an increase in non-vaccine strains, *ScienceDaily* reports.

"The researchers found a significant decline in IPD rates for all age groups (-78 percent, under 5 years; -38 percent, 5-17 years; -39 percent, 18-49 years; -14 percent, 50-64 years; -32 percent, 65-79 years; and -42 percent, 80 years and older) with even greater declines in IPD caused by those strains included in the PCV7 vaccine." [Read more.](#)

Coaching Patients and Their Caregivers to Talk to Their Doctors

Home health clinicians have an opportunity to play a key role in their care, including improved communication with their physicians. Below are just a few ideas for how your agency's staff can facilitate better patient/physician communication:

- Emphasize the importance of a physician follow-up visit and the need to provide the primary care physician with recent health status information
- Practice and role-play questions with patients/caregivers for primary care physicians/specialists
- Provide advice in getting prompt physician follow-up appointments if necessary
- Educate and encourage patients to prepare them for talking to their physicians and asking questions

Patient Communication Resources

[Quick Tips When Talking to Your Doctor](#)

[Talking with Your Doctor: A Guide for Older People](#)

[Be An Active Health Care Consumer](#)

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[Ask Me 3](#)[Partnership for Clear Health Communication](#)**Chronic Care Model and Home Health WebEx Available**

In this presentation, Edward Wagner, MD, MPH, discusses the current state of chronic illness in the U.S. and what changes are needed to improve chronic care management. It is available at [MedQIC](#).

Transitional Care Coordination and the PHR

A personal health record (PHR) can help facilitate communication between patients and caregivers, and ensure continuity of planning across healthcare settings. It is important that patients understand what a PHR is and how they should manage its use. For more information, download the [Transitional Care Coordination](#) intervention package.

CMS Open Door Forum April 2

The next CMS home health, hospice and durable medical equipment (DME) forum is scheduled for April 2 at 2 p.m. ET/1 p.m. CT. The open door forum addresses issues related to Home Health Prospective Payment System, the newly proposed competitive bidding for DME, and the Medicare Hospice benefit. The call-in number is 800.837.1935, passcode 37587040.

HOSPITAL NEWS**The AHRQ Patient Safety Network**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Network features links to the latest tools, literature, and news in patient safety as well as an annotated collection of patient safety resources. [Click here](#) to see what's new.

Quality Basics Presentations Now Available

The first three presentations in the new Quality Basics for Providers Series - The History and Evolution of Quality and Dimensions of Quality - are now posted to [MedQIC](#).

Online Disparities Course Now Available

The new "Disparities in Healthcare" course is now available at the [QualityNet eLearning Center](#). This introductory course is designed to raise awareness and demonstrate the impact of healthcare disparities.

New on MedQIC

[SBAR: What Every Nurse Needs to Know \(presentation\)](#)

[Using TeamSTEPPS to Improve Safety in the 9th SOW \(presentation\)](#)

[Fact Sheets for Diagnostic Uncertainty, Identified Pneumonia Pathogen, and Chest X-Ray for Discharges 10/1/07+](#)

[Rural Health Annotated Bibliography](#)

[Rural Quality and Safety Speaker Listing](#)

[Rural Health Quality Resources](#)

Sign Up for the National SCIP Listserv

Subscribe to the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) listserv to receive up-to-date information and to exchange ideas with peers. To sign up, open a new e-mail message from the inbox of the subscriber. Send the email to listmanager@list.qhlist.org with the subject 'Subscribe SCIP'. (Note: The body of the e-mail should be blank - no auto signature or confidentiality statement.)

PHYSICIAN OFFICE NEWS

ePrescribing Grant Opportunity

The Tennessee General Assembly has authorized funding for a Physician Connectivity grant to accelerate the use of ePrescribing. The State will reimburse actual costs not to exceed \$3,500 per Tennessee licensed physician and actual costs not to exceed \$6,000 per treatment site to develop the infrastructure to connect to the Tennessee eHealth Exchange Zone and to use ePrescribing technology. Funds are intended to cover expenses related to the first year of broadband service. All grantees are expected to participate in ePrescribing for two years.



To be eligible for the grant, physicians must be a licensed medical doctor in Tennessee, actively practicing and in good standing with the licensure board. Medical treatment sites in rural counties and primary care will be given priority. The following types of practices have also been designated for priority disbursement:

- Family Practice
- General Practice
- Internal Medicine
- Gynecology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Public Health and General Preventative Medicine

[More about the grant...](#)

FREE Resources from QSource

The "Diabetes Road Map" is available in English and Spanish. The Road Map is a pocket-size booklet in which patients can keep track of daily blood sugar readings and readings performed during doctor visits.

Also, the "EHR Under Construction" brochure and poster is available for practices implementing an electronic health record (EHR) system.

To place an order for either, [click here](#) or call 800.528.2655 ext. 2664.

QSource offers a variety of [online resources](#) and FAQs for physician offices wanting to understand an EHR.

DOQ-IT RELATED NEWS

Medication Compliance Improved Through Use of Tracking Tools

Patients and caregivers increasingly are using drug tracking devices and Web sites to better comply with their medication regimens and reduce errors, *iHealthBeat* reports.

The drug tracking systems can help patients boost their medication compliance, Ann Burns, vice president of professional affairs for the American Pharmacists Association, said. The devices also can help elderly patients continue to live in their own homes, according to experts. [Read more](#) (registration required).

Online Tool Could Improve Screening for Osteoporosis

A new online tool developed by the World Health Organization could help improve osteoporosis screening and advance efforts to provide appropriate care to people at high risk of bone fractures, *iHealthBeat* reports.

The tool uses a computer algorithm to assess a patient's 10-year risk of bone fracture based on a bone density scan and nine other risk factors including:

- Alcohol consumption
- Family history
- Smoking

[Read more](#) (registration required).

Online Physician Networking Web Sites Grow in Popularity

The number of online social networking communities for physicians has increased in recent months, *iHealthBeat* reports. Proponents of these sites say they allow physicians with limited time to communicate with others in their fields and discuss a variety of issues. [Read more](#) (registration required).

State Web Site Lets Patients Track Doctor's Dealings

By going to the [Tennessee Department of Health Web site](#), consumers can find out if the board has taken action against a doctor, why and what the outcome was, the *Tennessean* reports. They can find other practical information to help them choose a doctor, such as where they attended school, which hospitals they can practice in and whether they have a criminal record.

MEDICARE NEWS

Proposed Regulation to Establish Patient Safety Organizations



A proposed regulation to improve the quality and safety of healthcare for all Americans by fostering the establishment of Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs) was recently announced by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

PSOs are private entities recognized by the Secretary to collect and analyze patient safety events reported by healthcare providers. They are new and separate from all currently existing entities that are addressing healthcare quality. [Read more.](#)

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