

Hello!

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NURSING HOME NEWS



Ostomy Care Educational Opportunity

The Mid-South Skin and Wound Care Professionals is sponsoring a free learning session on "How to Choose the Right Ostomy System." Brenda Patterson, RN, CCM, CDMS, will be the featured speaker.

The session will take place Feb. 19 at 1:30 p.m. at Delta Medical Center located at 3960 Knight Arnold Road in Memphis. Lunch will be provided. Nursing homes must register for the event by Feb. 18 by contacting Patterson at 615.627.8234.

"Advancing Excellence" Pressure Ulcer Educational Opportunities

As part of the "Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Home" campaign, there will be free pressure ulcer educational opportunities for nursing homes.



Fall 2007 Issue of Quality Source Now Available Online

In this issue of *Quality Source*, we introduce you to the new Tennessee Center for Patient Safety and give a recap of the 2007 Tennesseans Improving Patient Safety Conference.

We also discuss a new QSource collaborative between hospitals and home health agencies to reduce acute care hospitalization and one local doctor's success with using an electronic health record (EHR).

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Facilities that have not registered for the campaign may participate in the education opportunities, but are encouraged to [register](#).

- "Process Frameworks and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers" Webinar Feb. 21

The Webinar will take place Feb. 21 from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. ET / 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. CT. The registration deadline is Feb. 15. Call-in instructions and a pass code will be given after registering. The PowerPoint presentation will be posted to the campaign site for download by Feb. 19.

The featured speakers are Steve Levenson, MD, and Debra Bakerjian, PhD, MSN.

[Register Now!](#)

- "The Power of Prevention and Early Intervention" Workshop March 25-27

The workshop will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at no charge to your facility, at the following locations:

- March 25 - Memphis Public Library (3030 Poplar Ave.)
- March 26 - Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt (2555 West End Ave.)
- March 27 - Knoxville Baptist Eye Institute (2020 Kay Street)

The featured speaker is Heather Hettrick, PT, PhD, CWS, MLT, FACCWS. Treatment nurses, directors of nursing and wound care staff should attend the workshop.

[Register Now! Limited Seating!](#)

HOME HEALTH NEWS

Message from the Home Health Program Manager

During the 8th Scope of Work, home health agencies (HHAs) worked hard to reduce their rate of acute care hospitalization (ACH). Agencies are now being bombarded with new information, new regulations and new forms of management. Remember that the HHA has positioned itself to be successful under pay-for-performance by implementing best practices to reduce ACH.



Keep staff focused on delivering the best care possible so that patients can remain in their home. Continue working to improve relationships and communication with physicians and discharge planners to improve patient care transitions. Immunize staff and patients to reduce the incidence of influenza and pneumonia.

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Final ACH Campaign Intervention Package Now Available

The Best Practice Intervention Package - [Transitional Care Coordination](#) - is now available.

This is the last of 12 intervention packages, which will conclude the HHQI National Campaign. The [HHQI Web site](#) will remain functioning until July 31. Most HHQI resources are being transitioned to [MedQIC](#), to remain accessible to providers. After Feb. 29, continuing education units will no longer be available for completing the campaign intervention packages.

Campaign participants should have received their last CD from the Home Health Quality Improvement Support Center in January. Beginning this month, HHQI reports will end and ACH Benchmark Reports will be sent to every agency listed on [Home Health Compare](#) with valid data.

These reports will include all of the same information, only the name of the report will change.

Set Your 2008 STAR Targets

QSource is asking all HHAs to set goals for 2008 on the [Setting Targets-Achieving Results \(STAR\)](#) site. In addition to acute care hospitalization and improvement in management of oral meds, agencies are encouraged to set targets for any or all of the other publicly reported measures. Putting agency targets into STAR is not a contractual commitment; there are no penalties for not reaching targets.

A username and password is required to access STAR accounts. To acquire an agency password, contact the QSource Home Health team: [Betty DeBlasio](#) at 615.574.7200 and [Barbara Meadows](#) at 615.574.7202. Agencies can also contact [Marian Boxer](#) at 800.528.2655 ext. 2638.

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.

Flu Vaccine Reminder

A flu vaccine is still the best way to prevent infection and the complications associated with the flu. But annual re-vaccination is necessary each year because flu viruses change each year. Please encourage Medicare patients to get their annual flu shot. Don't forget staff immunization as well.

Influenza vaccination is a covered Medicare Part B benefit. Note that influenza vaccine is not a Medicare Part D covered drug. Healthcare professionals and their staff can learn more about Medicare's coverage of adult immunizations and related provider education resources, by reviewing a CMS [Special Edition MLN](#)

[Matters](#) article.

Tools and Resources

[National Pressure Ulcer Staging System \(Updated\)](#)

[Minimizing Adverse Drug Events in Older Patients: Article](#)

[Emergency Room Visits by Seniors Rising: Study](#)

[Guided Pathways to Medicare Resources for Medicare Fee-for-Service Health Care Professionals](#)

HOSPITAL NEWS



HRET Disparities Toolkit Now Available At No Cost

The American Hospital Association and Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) have made the [HRET Disparities Toolkit](#) available free-of-charge to ensure all have access to this helpful resource. The toolkit provides information and resources to help hospitals, health systems, clinics and health plans collect race, ethnicity, and primary language data from patients. The toolkit also aids in educating and informing hospital staff about the importance of data collection, how to implement a framework to collect the data, and how to use the data to improve quality of care for all populations.

Study: Web-Based Tools Can Increase Disease Reporting

Providing physicians with simple and fairly inexpensive Web-based reporting tools, such as e-mail reminders, informational Web sites and programs for handheld devices, leads to more reporting of infectious diseases, foodborne illnesses and other public health issues, according to a study recently published in the *Journal of Health Management and Practice*, *iHealthBeat* reports. [Read more](#) (registration required).

Free On-Demand IHI Presentations Now Available

The Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is now offer Dr. Donald M. Berwick's speech, "Eating Soup with a Fork," as a free [on-demand presentation](#).

Other on-demand presentations include:

[The Right Treatment for the Right Patient Every Time: Applying Reliability Science to Health Care](#)

[Effective Teamwork as a Care Strategy - SBAR and Other Tools for Improving Communication](#)

[Getting Started on Flow](#)

[An Introduction to the Model for Improvement](#)

[Building Skills in Data Collection and Understanding](#)

[Using Run and Control Charts to Understand Variation](#)

PHYSICIAN OFFICE NEWS

HHS Secretary Hosts Public Forum in Memphis

Thursday Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt visited Memphis to host a public forum on electronic health record adoption and announced the nation's first chartered value exchange.



The forum, "Local Collaboratives Working to Deliver Better Care at Lower Cost Electronic Health Records Advancing 21st Century Medicine", was held at the Hamilton Eye Institute on Madison Ave. The event consisted of a private meeting of local selected stakeholders, providers and partners. Leavitt also hosted a public meeting with more than 100 attendees.

Healthy Memphis Common Table, a local collaborative that works to improve both health and health care in the Mid-South, was named the nation's first chartered value exchange (CVE). As a CVE, Healthy Memphis will support Leavitt's transparency initiative by aggregating public and private data to provide local cost and quality information to consumers.

Registration Is Now Available for Tennessee Prescription Safety Program Spring Seminars

The Tennessee Prescription Safety Program is a two-year pilot program designed to reduce the misuse and abuse of Schedule II prescriptions in Tennessee through education and new technology.

Prescription safety program seminars are being held throughout the state to educate physicians, family nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and dentists about medical, legal and regulatory issues on proper prescribing practices. [Click here](#) for more information.

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's 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

Tennessee RHIOs Offer Solutions for Sustainable Business Models

Recent studies from the Health IT Transition Group and Harvard University's Program for Health Systems Improvement show that a number of RHIOs are failing and have achieved limited participation and data sharing capabilities. Two RHIOs in Pennsylvania and California also recently shut down because of financial constraints as well as privacy concerns, *iHealthBeat* reports.

But in Tennessee, two developing approaches to create a sustainable RHIO model seem to be proving successful, as well as potentially profitable. [Read more](#) (registration required).

E-Prescribing to be Top Health IT Issue in 2008

Both proponents and opponents of electronic prescribing say that the technology will be one of the biggest and most contentious health IT issues in 2008, Healthcare IT News reports. Deborah Peel, founder of Patient Privacy Rights, said Congress will likely look to address e-prescribing first because it might seem like a simple and reasonable place to start, *iHealthBeat* reports. [Read more](#) (registration required).

Healthcare IT Spending Expected to Jump in the Next Five Years

Market research firm Input predicts that the health IT market will expand at a rate of 8.6 percent annually, with health IT spending increasing from \$6.9 billion in 2007 to \$10.8 billion in 2012. New investments in Medicaid Management Information Systems by state and local governments will drive much of the growth in health IT spending, *iHealthBeat* reports. [Read more](#) (registration required).

MEDICARE NEWS

New Medicare Preventive Services Quick Reference Chart



A new Medicare preventive services quick reference information chart on the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) is available [online](#).

"The ABCs of Providing the Initial Preventive Physical Examination" (also known as the "[Welcome to Medicare](#)" Exam) is a two-sided chart that can be used by Medicare fee-for-service physicians and qualified non-physician practitioners as a guide when providing the IPPE.

This material was prepared by QSource, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Tennessee, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.

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