

[« Back](#) [Print](#)

8SOW-TN-Taskall-2006-11

July 2006

Hello!

Welcome to Quality Source E-News, a monthly online supplement to the quarterly Quality Source magazine published by QSource. For more information about QSource or to view our printed publication online, visit www.qsource.org. (Note: This publication is best viewed online in HTML format. To view it in this format, please change the settings in your e-mail.)

IN THIS ISSUE OF...

- NURSING HOME NEWS
- HOME HEALTH NEWS
- HOSPITAL NEWS
- PHYSICIAN OFFICE NEWS
- DOQ-IT RELATED NEWS
- MEDICARE NEWS

NURSING HOME NEWS**Set Your 2007 STAR Targets**

The time has come for nursing homes to set their 2007 Setting Targets-Achieving Results (STAR) target.

Click [HERE](#) to set your 2007 target or to create a new

account. **Don't wait!!**

For further assistance, contact [Beth Hercher](#), QSource QI specialist.

Conference Call: The Benefits of Culture Change

A statewide teleconference on the benefits of culture change will take place on July 27 with guest speakers from the Tennessee Eden Alternative Coalition.

The conference call will take place July 27 at 1:30 p.m. CT. The call-in number is 800.615.2820 and the pass code is 848325.

The panel will consist of facilities that are currently on the culture change journey, state survey agency and long term care professionals.

For more information, contact [Laurie Gyscek](#), QSource nursing home program manager.

Culture Change Resources

[Transforming Long-Term Care: Giving Residents a Place to Call Home](#)

[Innovations in the Quality of Life](#)

HOME HEALTH NEWS**Spring Issue of Quality Source Available**

The spring issue of *Quality Source* is filled with articles on everything from disease management to cultural competency.

In this issue, we will introduce you to the Public Voluntary Reporting Project and share the Institute of Medicine's evaluation of Quality Improvement Organizations.

[Click here to subscribe to Quality Source...](#)

Quick Links...

[Visit QSource Online](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[More About Us](#)

For More Information...

Safe Steps to Reduce Falls

Falls account for an average of 5.1 million injuries and nearly 6,000 deaths each year. The vast majority of fall deaths occur among people age 65 and older, according to Home Safety Council.



Click [HERE](#) to read the Safe Steps Checklist.

Tip: Monitoring a Plan of Action (POA)

Monitoring a plan of action is more than looking at Home Health Compare and outcome reports. Real-time monitoring must occur at the home health agency level to determine best practice compliance rates. There must be root-cause investigation if a best practice is not being implemented at an acceptable rate.

The following is a real life example from a home health agency:

"Our monitoring for best practices led us to identify a problem with our managed care organizations not authorizing enough up-front visits to be able to complete a best practice on our POA. We are now working with the payers to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of front-loading visits to support reducing avoidable hospitalizations."

Tip: Remember that Quality Is Not a Department

Quality improvement is not a program or a project. It is not the responsibility of one individual or even those assigned to the quality department. Meaningful and sustainable changes are possible only when people throughout an organization feel a shared desire to make processes and outcomes better every day. [Read more.](#)

Tools and Resources

[National Network for Immunization Information](#)

[Presentations: Oral Medications](#)

Articles

Lower Literacy Means Poor Health and Poor Health Care Access for Older People

People aged 70 years and older with limited literacy skills are one and one half to two times as likely to have poor health and poor health care access as people with adequate or higher reading ability, according to a study led by researchers at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and the University of California, San Francisco. [Read more.](#)

Characteristics of Caregivers May Increase Symptoms in Dementia Patients

Troublesome symptoms that accompany dementia including wandering, hallucinations and restlessness may increase if the patients' caregivers are young, less educated, overburdened or depressed, according to researchers from Wake Forest University School of Medicine and colleagues. [Read more.](#)

One Fourth of Older Patients Receive Catheters for No Reason

A study of 7,586 hospitalized patients age 70 and older at two Ohio hospitals indicates that 24 percent were give medically unnecessary urinary catheters, according to investigators led by a researcher at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. [Read more.](#)

Anxiety Common in Elderly, Yet Often Undiagnosed and Under Treated

Anxiety may be the most common mental disorder experienced by older adults, affecting one in 10 people over the age of 60. [Read more.](#)

HOSPITAL NEWS

100k Lives Campaign Exceeds Goal

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) announced that U.S. hospitals taking part in an unprecedented 18- month effort to prevent 100,000 unnecessary deaths by dramatically improving patient care have exceeded that goal. Hospitals enrolled in the 100k Lives Campaign have collectively prevented an estimated 122,300 avoidable deaths and, as importantly, have begun to institutionalize new standards of care that will



[Find out more about DOQ-IT](#)



[Be A STAR!](#)

Tell Us What You Think!

Complete The Readership Survey



Join our mailing list!

continue to save lives and improve health outcomes into the future.

Click [HERE](#) to read more of the press release.

Medicare Posts Hospital Payment Information Online

To help consumers, providers and payers make more informed healthcare decisions, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted information on what Medicare pays for 30 common elective procedures and other hospital admissions.

The [hospital payment information](#) shows the range of payments by county and the number of cases treated at each hospital for a variety of treatments provided to seniors and people with disabilities in fiscal year 2005.

Reminder: FY2007 Annual Payment Update

The proposed rules for FY2007 Annual Payment Update (APU) include the submission of 21 clinical measures, which include the Surgical Infection Prevention (SIP) measures #1 and #3.

Prior to the posting of the proposed rules, approximately 30 hospitals in Tennessee were submitting SIP data, but most of them were not submitting cases for the full complement of surgery types. These hospitals must now expand their data abstraction and submission for Q1-2006 discharges to include all of the following seven surgery types, if performed at their facility:

- Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)
- Other Cardiac Surgeries
- Hip Arthroplasty
- Knee Arthroplasty
- Colon Surgeries
- Hysterectomy
- Vascular Surgeries

For some hospitals this will mean returning to their Q1-2006 case lists and selecting and completing additional abstractions.

When updated, the CMS checklist for the APU process will detail the process hospitals will use to indicate if they have "zero cases" for any of the surgery types.

Current QSource tracking of vendor authorization changes by hospitals to add the SIP measures to their existing submissions now shows a total of 60 hospitals that intend to submit their SIP cases, starting with the APU-required Q1-2006 discharges.

Since most vendors will require their hospitals to abstract and submit their SIP data well in advance of the warehouse submission deadline it appears that 50+ hospitals in Tennessee have either not made their decision to "go for" the full 2007 APU or they are yet to complete the vendor authorization.

If your hospital would like to use the free CMS Abstraction Reporting Tool (CART) tool for SIP data abstraction instead of a vendor tool, QSource will assist you in this process.

For assistance with APU, contact [Judy Weddle](#), QSource hospital program manager, at 800.528.2655 ext. 2613.

Correction: Hospital Data Collection: Incorrect/Invalid Record Selection Clarifications

A correction of guideline verbiage was made to the [Invalid Record Selection Details](#).

HCAHPS Online Data Entry Tool Now Available

The HCAHPS Online Data Entry tool was developed primarily for hospitals self administering the [HCAHPS](#) survey and submitting data on their own. It is an alternative to converting data files into XML.

The tool provides hospitals and vendors the option to enter one single survey at a time. A hospital may not submit HCAHPS data via the online tool if a survey vendor has been authorized to submit data on the hospital's behalf.

To access the HCAHPS online survey tool feature in [QualityNet Exchange](#), hospital or vendor personnel must be assigned the data entry role by their QualityNet Exchange

Security Administrator. To request this role, contact [Grant Rast](#), QSource security administrator, at 800.528.2655 ext. 2670.

The Role and Resources document provides step-by- step instructions regarding the assignment of the new role, and available resources for assistance with using the HCAHPS Online Data Entry Tool. [Read more](#).

PHYSICIAN OFFICE NEWS

Save the Date: Third Annual Tennessee Improving Patient Safety (TIPS) Symposium

All healthcare professionals are invited to attend the [Tennessee Improving Patient Safety \(TIPS\)](#) symposium. Nationally known speakers and panelists will present on various topics such as technology changes, and changes in patient safety and quality cultures. You will also have the opportunity to exchange ideas with other healthcare professionals from across the state.



The conference will take place Sept. 14 and 15 at the Renaissance Hotel in Nashville. Registration details are forthcoming.

Physicians Adopt EHRs Despite Cost

Electronic health records (EHRs) have been touted as a way to improve healthcare efficiency and accuracy, and though cost has been prohibitive for some physician practices, larger hospitals and health systems are beginning to implement the technology, reports [iHealthBeat](#).

Sign Up for DOQ-IT

The Doctor's Office Information Technology (DOQ- IT) project has been a tremendous success and QSource is currently providing free electronic health record (EHR) assistance to more than 200 practices.

Under the contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), QSource is to work with primary care physicians who treat adults in Tennessee. Click [here](#) to register for free EHR assistance and consulting from QSource.

EHR Resources & Tools Available Online

In the process of looking for an EHR? Don't know where to begin? QSource offers a variety of online resources and FAQs for physician offices wanting to understand an EHR. You can find it [here](#)!

DOQ-IT Vendor List

The vendors listed below have signed a DOQ-IT letter of intent to declare their intention to meet program expectations. They have successfully demonstrated the ability to report on the 35 DOQ-IT ambulatory clinical quality measures and output the data to the DOQ-IT clinical warehouse.

Current vendors as of June 26, 2006:

[A4 Health Systems](#)

[Misys Healthcare Systems](#)

[NextGen Healthcare](#)

[Sapphire Enterprises](#)

Message Board Available to Physicians

Many healthcare providers have asked for a way of sharing information, asking questions and having discussions with other Tennessee healthcare providers on various medical topics. Users of the QSource Web site now have the opportunity to do just that with new message capabilities.

Physicians interested in implementing an EHR are the first to have access to the message board. You will need to register to use the board and you may post messages and comments as frequently as you like.

If interested in joining the Physician Office/DOQ-IT message board, [click](#) here.

Cultural Competency Module Training

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is recommending that physician offices across the nation become more culturally competent in the care they provide to patients with diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, language and culture.

To do this, physicians are encouraged to complete an online Cultural Competency course and receive up to nine CMEs in the process. Nurses can earn 10.8 CEUs upon completing the course.

Physicians are asked to complete Theme 3 first because it assesses the staff and practice, then proceed to Themes 1 and 2. Upon completion of the modules, notify our physician office team to receive a free gift. If interested, click [here](#).

DOQ-IT RELATED NEWS

House Subcommittee Approves Health IT Bill

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health approved by voice vote a bill that would promote the use of healthcare IT, reports [iHealthBeat](#).

Brailer Addresses Health IT at Conference

Former National Coordinator for Health IT Dr. David Brailer predicted that Congress will pass and President Bush will sign legislation this year aimed at speeding the adoption of health IT, reports [iHealthBeat](#).

MEDICARE NEWS

New Resource: Your Medicare Rights and Protection Booklet

With this CMS booklet providers can inform beneficiaries about:

- Their right to file a complaint;
- Their right to get healthcare services needed;
- Their right to privacy; and
- Where beneficiaries can get help with their questions.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

email: lhouston@tnqio.sdps.org

phone: 800.528.2655

web: <http://www.qsource.org>

[Forward email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe™

This email was sent to Imaples@tnqio.sdps.org, by lhouston@tnqio.sdps.org
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Powered by



QSource | 3175 Lenox Park Blvd, Ste. 309 | Memphis | TN | 38115