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February 2007

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.)

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

NURSING HOME NEWS**It's Not Too Late to Register for the Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes Campaign!**

There are approximately 1,570 nursing homes participating in Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes, a new coalition-based campaign focused on

improving the quality of care and quality of life for those living in America's nursing homes. Click [here](#) to learn more about the campaign and register.

Certified Eden Alternative Associate Training

During a three-day session, Eden Alternative trainers will reveal the Ten Principles of the Eden Alternative and give specific suggestions and guidelines for putting them into practice. Anyone interested in making a difference in long term care should attend.

The training will take place March 7-9 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bordeaux Long Term Care, located at 1414 County Hospital Road in Nashville. The cost is \$400 per attendee (early bird) and \$450 per attendee after Feb. 21. To register, contact [Jesse Rogers](#) at 512.847.6061.

HHS Launches Consumer Web Site for Long Term Care**Fall Issue of Quality Source Now Available**

In this issue, we will share the success stories of Tennessee hospitals that have improved patient safety and quality, non-pharmacological interventions for treating depression and lessons learned from physicians who have implemented electronic health records.

We will also share the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report on pay-for-performance initiatives.

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Information

A new Web site developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the National Clearinghouse for Long Term Care provides information and resources to help consumers plan for future long term care needs. Learn [more](#).

HOME HEALTH NEWS

QSource Launches Web Site that Recognizes Agencies for Achieving Target ACH Rate



QSource recently launched a Web page that recognizes home health agencies that achieve their relative target rate for acute care hospitalization set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Click [here](#) to learn more about the site and featured agencies.

It's Not Too Late to Register for the Home Health Quality Improvement National Campaign!

The Home Health Quality Improvement National Campaign will provide home health agencies with a monthly intervention packet that includes educational tools and resources, information sharing, best practice education and individual agency reports with data not available through Outcome Based Quality Improvement (OBQI) reports. These resources will assist agencies with reducing avoidable hospitalizations. There are more than 3,400 agencies nationally participating in the campaign. Click [here](#) to learn more about the campaign and register.

Almost One-Third of Medicare Spending for Chronically Ill Unnecessary, According to Recent Study

Staggering variations in how hospitals care for chronically ill elderly patients indicate serious problems with quality of care and point toward unnecessary spending by Medicare, according to the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care. Lower utilization of acute care hospitals and physician visits could actually lead to better results for patients and prolong the solvency of the Medicare program, according to a new study by the Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences (CECS) at Dartmouth Medical School. Read [more](#).

IHI Launches 5 Million Lives Campaign

In December, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) launched the 5 Million Lives Campaign, which challenges American hospitals to adopt 12 changes in care that save lives and reduce patient injuries. Read [more](#).

HOSPITAL NEWS



AHRQ Releases National Healthcare Quality Report: Improvements in

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 Local Physician Forum on EMR Adoption and Use
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Hospital Care Attributed to QIO Program

The recently released Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) 2006 National Healthcare Quality Report (NHQR) indicates that care in hospitals improved at a greater rate than care in other settings – an advance that AHRQ attributed CMS efforts through the work of QIOs and public reporting of quality performance. Read [more](#).

Critical Access Hospitals' Involvement in Reporting Risk-Standardized, 30-Day Mortality Measures

In the interest of promoting high quality, patient-centered care and accountability, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Hospital Quality Alliance (HQA) will begin publicly reporting 30-day mortality measures for acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and heart failure (HF) in June 2007. Read [more](#).

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UNMC Offers Tools for Patient Safety in Small Rural Hospitals

The University of Nebraska Medical Center recently launched a Web site for its rural hospital patient health project "Implementing a Program of Patient Safety in Small Rural Hospitals." The site includes a benchmarking tool, lessons learned PowerPoint presentation, recorded teleconferences and other tools. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Influenza Vaccine Availability Update

- MedImmune has received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for its refrigerated version of FluMist. Learn [more](#).
- FFF Enterprises has launched 2007-2008 flu vaccine ordering programs. Learn [more](#).
- ASD Healthcare has launched CertiFluSM, a flu vaccine ordering program that ensures the quantity ordered by the date needed. Learn [more](#).
- Nationwide Medical/Surgical is now accepting prebookings for the upcoming 2007-2008 influenza season. Learn [more](#).
- Novartis Vaccines has announced prebookings for its influenza vaccine FLUVIRIN. Learn [more](#).

PHYSICIAN OFFICE NEWS

Bredesen Discusses Health IT in Washington, D.C.



Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen began last month to layout a framework for electronic health record keeping at the inaugural State Alliance for e-Health meeting in Washington, D.C., iHealthBeat reports. Read [more](#).



Tennessee Extends E-Prescribing System To Rural Doctors

TennCare, Tennessee's Medicaid program, soon will provide rural physicians with access to an electronic prescription system that aims to reduce pharmacy costs, increase efficiency and improve patient safety, iHealthBeat reports. Read [more](#).

EMR Road Show March 28

Mark your calendars for the 2007 Electronic Medical Record (EMR). The one-day event provides user-based education on EMRs for specialty and family practice physicians.

The event will take place March 28 at the [Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel](#), located at 623 Union Street in Nashville. Contact the hotel at 615.259.2000 to make reservations. The workshop is \$40/per attendee and \$30/per attendee for groups of three or more. **The first 100 people that register will have their registration fee waived.** The registration fee includes lunch and admission to all of the sessions. Click [here](#) to register.

NPI Compliance Date Approaching

There are less than four months left to implement the National Provider Identifier (NPI) into business practices prior to the compliance date of May 23. All Medicare providers and healthcare providers who transmit health information electronically in connection with any of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) standard transactions are required to obtain a NPI.

Failure to prepare could result in a disruption of cash flow. If you have not obtained your NPI by now, you should do so immediately to begin the implementation and testing process. Click [here](#) to read more about the NPI and how to apply.

Cultural Competency Training

The Centers for Medicaid & Medicare 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 continuing medical education credits in the process. Nurses can earn 10.8 continuing education units upon completing the course.

Physicians are asked to complete Theme 2 first because it assesses

Language Access Services, and then proceed to Themes 1 and 3. Upon completion of the modules, notify our physician office team to receive a free gift. Click [here](#) to register. Free marketing materials to promote Cultural Competency Training to hospital staff are available by clicking [here](#).

FREE Interactive Cultural Competency Curriculum Module Training Sessions

QSource is sponsoring free online, interactive training sessions for the Office of Minority Health Cultural Competency Curriculum Modules (CCCMs).

Each month, from February through March, an online interactive training session will be devoted to one of the modules.

The training sessions in February will focus on "**Organizational Support**" and take place every **Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. CT**. To participate in the sessions, dial **800.270.1153** and enter passcode 96401.

Training sessions are only available to providers who have completed the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) standards. Click [here](#) to complete the CLAS standards.

If you have completed the CLAS standards, but **HAVE NOT** registered at the Think Cultural Health site, click [here](#). For registration assistance, click [here](#).

Welcome to Medicare Exam

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) expanded Medicare's menu of preventive benefits by covering an initial preventive physical examination. This benefit, also referred to as the Welcome to Medicare visit, is an excellent way for new Medicare beneficiaries to get up-to-date on important screenings and vaccinations, as well as to talk with their healthcare provider about their medical history and how to stay healthy. Read [more](#).

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EHR Resources & Tools Available Online

In the process of looking for an electronic health record (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 RELATED NEWS

Bush Highlights Health IT in State of the Union Address

President Bush in his State of the Union Address noted the importance of using technology in health care, iHealthBeat reports. Read [more](#).

Physician Groups Say Health IT Key to Reform

Ten U.S. physician associations have collaborated to release a list of reform guidelines for the country's healthcare system, which includes the implementation of health information technology (IT), iHealthBeat reports. Read [more](#).

National Patient Safety Initiative Launched to Provide Free E- Prescribing to Physicians

A coalition of the nation's most prominent technology companies and leading healthcare organizations recently launched an initiative to provide free electronic prescribing to every physician in America, PR Newswire reports. Read [more](#).

Web Site Lets Physicians Discuss Adverse Drug Reactions

A new Web site lets physicians discuss adverse drug reactions and novel ways to use medications, iHealthBeat reports. Read [more](#).

MEDICARE NEWS

Buccaneer Data Services Awarded CDAC Contract

Buccaneer Data Services was recently awarded the single contract for the Clinical Data Abstraction Center (CDAC). Click [here](#) for Buccaneer instructions for medical records submission.



Long-Term, Acute-Care Hospitals: New Opportunity For Advanced PEPPER Training

Long-term, acute-care hospitals (LTCHs) are invited to the second nationwide Webinar on the Program for Evaluating Payment Patterns Electronic Report (PEPPER), the electronic report of hospital-specific data for areas likely to result in Medicare payment errors. Compliance officers and utilization, health information management and coding professionals are encouraged to attend this educational seminar.

The Advanced PEPPER Webinar, titled TX-Long-Term, Acute-Care

Hospital PEPPER: Advanced, will take place March 6, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET/1 p.m. to 2 p.m. CT. This event is provided free of charge as part of the Medicare program, but space is limited. Register today by clicking [here](#).

CMS Eliminates Medicare Part D Late Enrollment Penalty for Low-Income Enrollees

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced the elimination of the 2007 late enrollment penalty for any beneficiary eligible for the low income subsidy for a Part D plan even if they failed to sign up by the program's initial deadline. Read [more](#).

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