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

There are approximately 5,228 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.

Set Your 2008 STAR Targets

Don't forget to set your 2008 Setting Targets-Achieving Results (STAR) target.

Click [HERE](#) to set your 2008 target or to create a new account. Don't wait!!

For further assistance, contact QSource QI Specialists [Beth Hercher](#) or [Mittie Robinson](#).

Reminder: Tools and Resources Available on QSource Web Site

The QSource Nursing Home team has a host of free, archived calls

**The Spring 2007 Issue of Quality Source Now Available Online**

In this issue, we will share culture change success stories in both nursing home and home health settings, and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's "5 Million Lives" campaign.

We also discuss the National Provider Identifier (NPI) and how it affects Medicare providers, and lessons learned from physicians who have implemented an electronic health record.

[Click here to read the latest issue of Quality Source...](#)

Quick Links...[Visit QSource Online](#)[Newsletter Archive](#)[Contact Us](#)

on topics ranging from consistent assignment to falls management and restraint reduction. Click [here](#) to visit the Tools and Resources page.

[More About Us](#)

HOME HEALTH NEWS

Message from the QSource Home Health Manager: Update on ACH and Oral Meds Rates for February



Tennessee home health agencies (HHAs) have improved their national ranking in the acute care hospitalization (ACH) outcome and are currently 47th out of 53 U.S. states and territories.

However, as anticipated, the Tennessee ACH rate for February increased. The statewide ACH rate increased from 32.6 percent in January to 32.76 percent in February. While, for many of you, February brought an increased ACH score, some agencies in Tennessee actually decreased their ACH rate. It can be done!

There are three months remaining until the remeasurement period before the 8th Scope of Work ends. At that point, Tennessee will be compared with all 53 states and territories in terms of progress toward the goal of reducing ACH and improving our state-selected outcome measure--improvement in management of oral medications. Tennessee has already surpassed the CMS target rate for oral meds by 1.03 percent with a score of 43.74 percent.

Tennessee has faced many challenges in achieving similar success with ACH, and many of you have found creative and effective ways of addressing these challenges. We've encountered seemingly insurmountable barriers, but still you've forged onward, constantly working to improve and chip away at these barriers.

ACH Campaign Intervention Package Available Now!

The third Best Practice Intervention Package - [Phone Monitoring and Frontloading Visits](#) - is now available. This is one of 12 intervention packages that will be provided electronically to home health agencies registered for the National Home Health Quality Improvement Campaign. More than 5,100 HHAs have now signed up to participate in the campaign.

The intervention package 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. Click [here](#) to learn more about the campaign and register if you have not already done so. Click [here](#) for the Hospitalization Risk Assessment Poster.

HHQI National Campaign Teleconference June 20

For More Information...



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

Nursing Home STAR Site
Setting Targets - Achieving Results

[Be A STAR!](#)



Tell Us What You Think!

Complete The Readership Survey



Home Health STAR Site
Setting Targets - Achieving Results

Join our mailing list!

The Home Health QIOSC is hosting a free Home Health Quality Improvement (HHQI) National Campaign teleconference June 20 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. ET/2 p.m. to 3 p.m. CT.

Important information about the campaign and highlights from agency leaders will be discussed. The teleconference is for HHQI participating home health agencies and local area networks of excellence (LANES). Registration is open June 1-15. Only one line per agency. Click [here](#) to register.

*Note: The [HHQI National Campaign Calendar of Events](#) for June is now available.

2007 STAR Targets

QSource is asking all agencies to set goals for 2007 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 your targets into STAR is not a contractual commitment; there are no penalties for not reaching your targets. This site also provides access to valuable information on OASIS.

You will need your username and password to access your STAR account. To acquire an agency password, contact the QSource Home Health team: [Betty DeBlasio](#) 615.574.7200 and [Barbara Meadows](#) 615.574.7402. Agencies can also contact [Marian Boxer](#) at 800.528.2655 ext. 2638.

Home Health Immunization Survey

QSource is tasked with assisting home health agencies to incorporate influenza and pneumococcal immunization into the comprehensive patient assessment as part of our current contract requirements.

If you have not already completed the remeasurement survey, please do so by clicking [here](#). Most of you completed the same survey one year ago. We are now requesting your assistance in completing this survey for remeasurement. It is very important that we get every agency to comply. The completed survey should be faxed to Marian Boxer, QSource home health program manager, at 901.761.3786.

For more information, contact [Boxer](#) at 800.528.2655 ext. 2638. Agencies can also contact QSource Quality Improvement Specialists [Barbara Meadows](#) at 615.574.7202 or [Betty DeBlasio](#) at 615.574.7200.

New Study Finds Home Telehealth to Be Promising for Patient Management of Chronic Diseases

Home telemonitoring of chronic diseases appears to be a promising approach to patient management, says a team of

Canadian scholars who reviewed more than 65 telemonitoring studies in the U.S. and Europe, reports *Telemedicine and Telehealth News*. Read [more](#).

Tools and Resources

The [Immunization Toolkit](#) is full of valuable sample policies, forms, educational materials, references and more that promote immunization.

The [Be Prepared for Medical Appointments](#) questionnaire can be passed on to patients and patient families to guide them on asking the right questions to understand their condition and evaluate treatment options.

HOSPITAL NEWS



Recording of Hospital Discharge Appeal Rights Conference Call Now Available

On Nov. 27, 2006, CMS published a final rule, CMS-4105-F: Notification of Hospital Discharge Appeal Rights. Beginning July 1, hospitals must deliver a revised version of the "Important Message from Medicare" to inform Medicare beneficiaries who are hospital inpatients about their hospital discharge appeal rights.

On May 29, CMS hosted an Open Door Forum for the general public. A recording is now available for four business days after the call. The call-in number is 800.837.1935, conference ID 7588715. The accompanying PowerPoint presentation and other information on this topic are available by clicking [here](#).

May MedQIC Newsletter

The MedQIC Monthly Newsletter provides information about the MedQIC Web site in general, its core features and new highlights.

A comprehensive list of topics ranging from heart care to rural health to quality improvement are now available on MedQIC. Click [here](#) to view recently posted resources.

National ROSC Conference Call Series Recordings Now Available!

Nearly 2,000 individuals participated in the three-part conference call series that the Hospital Improvement QIOSC hosted in conjunction with the National Rural Health Association this spring.

The conference call series, titled "Improving Patient Safety in Rural Hospitals: Translating Research into Practice," featured rural patient safety experts as they shared practical lessons, strategies, and findings from their research with rural hospitals. Recordings and materials from all three calls are now available on [MedQIC](#).

PHYSICIAN OFFICE NEWS

FREE Cultural Competency Workshop

A free cultural competency workshop for service and healthcare providers will take place June 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Memphis Public Library. The library is located at 3030 Poplar Ave. in Memphis.



To register for the free workshop, call the Aging Commission assistance line at 901.324.3399.

CMS Clarifies Guidelines for NPI Deadline Implementation

CMS recently announced that through May 23, 2008, it will not impose penalties on covered entities that deploy contingency plans to facilitate the compliance of their trading partners (e.g., those healthcare providers who bill them). The posted guidance document can be used by covered entities to design and implement a contingency plan. Read [more](#).

CMS Establishes 1.5 Percent Bonus Payment through PQRI

On Dec. 20, the President signed the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA). Section 101 under Title I authorizes the establishment of a physician quality reporting system by CMS known as the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI).

PQRI establishes a financial incentive for eligible professionals to participate in a voluntary quality reporting program. Eligible professionals who successfully report a designated set of quality measures on claims for dates of service from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2007, may earn a bonus payment, subject to a cap, of 1.5 percent of total allowed charges for covered Medicare physician fee schedule services. You must have a [National Provider Identifier \(NPI\)](#) to participate in the 2007 PQRI.

CMS is hosting a series of provider conference calls for PQRI. For more information on PQRI or the conference calls, visit [PQRI](#) or [Medicare Learning Network](#).

FREE Health IT and Care Management Resource Available

The Doctor's Office Quality-Information Technology (DOQ-IT) University is an interactive, Web-based learning environment available to physician practices. DOQ-IT University offers learning tools to facilitate the adoption and application of health information technology and care management strategies. Click [here](#) to visit [DOQ-IT University](#) (registration required). Click [here](#) for registration instructions.

"Welcome to Medicare" Exam Available

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](#).

Spanish Diabetes Road Maps Now Available!

The Spanish version of the Diabetes Road Map is now available. 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. The Diabetes Road Map is also available in English.

The "EHR Under Construction" brochure is available for practices implementing an electronic health record (EHR).

To place an order for the Diabetes Road Map or "EHR Under Construction" brochure, click [here](#) or call 800.528.2655 ext. 2664.

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

U.S. Ranks Last in Healthcare Performance, IT Adoption

The U.S. is trailing other countries in health information technology (IT) adoption and national policies that promote quality improvement, according to an ongoing study by the Commonwealth Fund, *iHealthBeat* reports. Read [more](#).

House Committee Approves Bill to Expand Health IT Training

The House Science and Technology Committee recently approved a bipartisan bill to expand electronic health recordkeeping, *iHealthBeat* reports. The legislation, sponsored by Rep. David Wu (D-Ore.), would allocate \$3.5 million in fiscal year 2008 and a total of \$14.6 million through FY 2011 for research, development and educational programs. Read [more](#).

Government, Employers, Consumers Driving Health IT Market

A market research firm predicts health information technology (IT) spending will grow at an average of 4.7 percent annually between 2005 and 2010, making it the fastest growth rate of any industry, *iHealthBeat* reports. Read [more](#).

National Cancer Institute Launches Spanish Web Site

The National Cancer Institute has launched a new Web site in Spanish that is directed toward the needs of Hispanic cancer patients, their families and health care providers, *iHealthBeat* reports. Read [more](#).

MEDICARE NEWS

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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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