

Hello!

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NURSING HOME NEWS



Save the Date: Free Pressure Ulcer Seminar Oct. 25

Gaymar Industries, which develops products to prevent and treat pressure ulcers, is hosting a free seminar entitled

"Pressure Ulcers: Well Worth Preventing." Thomas Stewart, PhD, founder of the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, is the featured speaker.

The seminar will take place Oct. 25 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CT at Baptist Memorial Hospital East in Memphis. Lunch will be provided. To register, contact [Jenny Hurlow](mailto:Jenny.Hurlow@baptistmemphis.org) at 901.507.7164.

New Dementia Care Practice Recommendations Released

The Alzheimer's Association recently released its third set of Dementia Care Practice Recommendations for Assisted Living Residences and Nursing Homes. The Recommendations, which



Summer 2007 Issue of Quality Source Now Available Online

In this issue of *Quality Source*, we introduce you to Regional Health Information Organizations (RHIOs) working to connect healthcare providers across the state and nation by the government's 2014 deadline.

We also discuss nurse retention in hospitals, consistent assignment in nursing homes, and lack of communication between home health agencies and physicians.

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capture the consensus of more than 30 national care organizations, focus on improving the end of life experience for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Read [more](#).

Registration Is Ongoing for the "Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes" Campaign

There are approximately 5,775 nursing homes participating in "Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes," a 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) targets.

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

For further assistance, contact QSource QI Specialist [Beth Hercher](#) 800.528.2655 ext. 2640.

Free Tools and Resources Available on QSource Web Site

The QSource Nursing Home team has a host of free, archived calls on topics ranging from consistent assignment to falls management and restraint reduction. Click [here](#) to visit the Tools and Resources page.

HOME HEALTH NEWS

Message from the QSource Home Health Program Manager

Congratulations! Once again, home health agencies have collectively reduced the acute care hospitalization (ACH) rate in Tennessee.

June 2007 data shows a continuous improvement on both ACH and Oral Meds. From May to June 2007, the ACH rate decreased from 32.61 percent to 32.47 percent.

For Oral Meds, the statewide rate of 44.59 percent exceeds Tennessee's CMS target rate of 42.11 percent.

The QSource home health team appreciates the work agencies do to improve the quality of life for patients by allowing them to recuperate in the best possible setting--their own homes.

Save the Date: Hospital and Home Health Collaborative Workshops

QSource Home Health and Hospital teams are hosting regional

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Nursing Home STAR Site
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workshops as part of their collaborative project to reduce avoidable acute care re-hospitalizations.

There will be three regional workshops:

Tuesday, Oct. 23 - Memphis
Thursday, Oct. 25 - Nashville**
Wednesday, Oct. 31 - Knoxville

**Note: Date change in Nashville workshop.

All workshops are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The workshops are an opportunity for hospitals and home health agencies to discuss challenges and solutions in care transition. Further registration details are forthcoming.

Set Your 2008 STAR Targets

QSource is asking all agencies 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 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Click [here](#) to view the featured agencies.

ACH Campaign Intervention Package Available Now

The eighth Best Practice Intervention Package - [Physician Relationship](#) - are 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 5,357 HHAs have signed up to participate.

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 assist agencies with reducing avoidable hospitalizations. Click [here](#) to learn more about the campaign and register.

The October [Calendar of Events](#) is now available.

CMS Publishes Final Revisit User Fee Program Regulation

The Revisit User Fee regulation allows CMS to impose fees for the survey and certification of healthcare facilities that require a follow-up visit from the State survey agency. The follow-up visits are to confirm the correction of deficiencies cited during initial certification, re-certification, and substantial compliance surveys. Read [more](#).

October is "Talk About Prescriptions" Month

For 22 years, the National Council on Patient Education and Information (NCPEI) has observed "[Talk About Prescriptions](#)" month. NCPEI is a coalition of over 125 diverse organizations whose mission is to stimulate and improve communication of information on appropriate medicine use to consumers and healthcare professionals.

Immunization Resources

Immunization can help reduce avoidable acute care hospitalizations and preventable deaths, especially for patients over 65 years of age. Click [here](#) for more information on immunization.

HOSPITAL NEWS



Additional Benchmarking Tools for AHRQ Survey Available Soon

Westat and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will develop benchmarking tools for hospitals with 25-49 beds and 50-99 beds utilizing data from the AHRQ 2007 Hospital Survey on Patient Safety Culture comparison database. The tools will be finalized and distributed once available.

CMS No-Payment Rule Is Final

In the May 3 Federal Register, CMS proposed a rule that would eliminate hospital reimbursement for a select group of preventable complications. That rule is now final and available in the [Federal Register](#).

AHRQ PodCast Focuses on Hand Washing

AHRQ recently released a Healthcare 411 podcast focusing on the importance of hand washing in healthcare settings. The audio program routinely features experts discussing contemporary healthcare issues [online](#).

September MedQIC Update

A comprehensive list of topics ranging from immunizations to rural health to quality improvement is now available on [MedQIC](#).

PHYSICIAN OFFICE NEWS

2007 ASP Drug Price Update

CMS has updated its fee schedule to reimburse at 95 percent of the 2007-2008 season average sales price (ASP) for the four injectable influenza vaccine codes. Read [more](#).



Medication Safety Resources

A number of associations are promoting activities related to medication safety during the month of October. Many of the educational materials and resources are available at low or no cost:

National Council on Patient Information and Education
[Talk About Prescriptions Month](#)

American Pharmacists Association
[American Pharmacists Month](#)

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
[National Hospital and Health-System Pharmacy Week](#)
[Just Ask! Campaign](#)

Joint Commission and CMS
[Speak Up Campaign](#)

Health Literacy Consulting
[Health Literacy Month](#)

American Medical Association Foundation
[Health Literacy](#)

DOQ-IT U Releases HF Management Module

Heart failure (HF) management is one of many topics available through Doctor's Office Quality-Information Technology University (DOQ-IT U), a Web-based learning environment available to physician practices. The HF management module focuses on diagnosis and treatment, population management and self-management support.

Click here to visit [DOQ-IT University](#) (registration required). Click [here](#) for registration instructions.

OMH Releases Online "Health Care Language Services Implementation Guide"

The Office of Minority Health (OMH) recently released the "Health Care Language Services Implementation Guide," an interactive Web-based learning tool designed to help healthcare professionals plan, implement and evaluate language access services within

their organizations. The guide is available [online](#) at no cost to healthcare providers.

"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](#).

FREE Resources from QSource

The Diabetes Road Map is now 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.

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.

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

HHS Report Depicts Health IT As the Foundation of Next-Generation Health Care

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Mike Leavitt recently described the government's role in developing a new generation of personalized health care, emphasizing health information technology as a keystone of that effort, *Government Health IT* reports. Read [more](#) (registration required).

HHS Unveils Road Map Toward Personalized Care

In the first of what is expected to be many reports, HHS has unveiled a road map that would parlay current health initiatives, such as the use of information technology and evidence-based practices, into a workable system in which scientists and physicians could "customize" the care they give to an individual based on that person's genetic makeup and other factors, *Government Health IT* reports. Read [more](#) (registration required).

Physicians Tap Web-Based Technology to Diagnose Patients

Among physicians there is a growing interest in decision support systems that aid patient diagnoses, *iHealthBeat* reports.

One such system -- called Isabel, which is used by 18 hospitals nationwide -- generates a list of possible diagnoses based on the patients' symptoms. Physicians can use the Web-based tool to sift through medical knowledge related to a possible diagnosis. Read [more](#) (registration required).

MEDICARE NEWS

Weems Named Acting Administrator for CMS



President Bush recently appointed Kerry Weems as Acting Administrator for CMS. Weems was nominated as Administrator by the President in May but the Senate has yet to schedule a confirmation vote to make the position permanent.

As Acting Administrator, Weems will immediately assume the responsibilities of the position vacated by Leslie Norwalk in July. Norwalk served as Acting Administrator following the departure of Mark McClellan, MD, PhD, last October.

MyMedicare Sends Reminders

A new functionality was recently added to the CMS Web site, MyMedicare.gov, which is designed to help beneficiaries track their preventive services eligibility and utilization. The new feature allows CMS to send those beneficiaries who provide an email address a reminder to let them know they are eligible for a preventive service. CMS has developed a brochure, available in [Spanish](#) and [English](#), to provide information about signing up for MyMedicare.gov.

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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