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NURSING HOME NEWS



Quality Improvement Tools and Resources

There are a host of free resources on various topics related to quality improvement.

Immunizations

The [Immunizations Toolkit](#) offers providers comprehensive and timely information related to immunization, in addition to sample guidelines and tools needed to run an effective and sustainable resident and staff immunization program. For questions and answers on influenza and pneumonia, visit [Ask the Experts](#) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Falls Management

The [Falls Management Program](#) is designed to assist nursing facilities in providing individualized, person-centered care, and improving their fall care processes and outcomes through

Fall 2007 Issue of *Quality Source* Coming Soon

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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educational and quality improvement tools.

SBAR

Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation (SBAR) is a device that can be used to improve communication within the nursing home setting. The [SBAR Nursing Home Package](#) includes two versions of a physician communication SBAR tool, an SBAR tool for pain, a flyer, a pocket card, phone stickers, references, sample scenarios and more.

Culture Change

The Tennessee Eden Alternative Coalition has Eden Alternative handbooks (culture change) available to nursing homes. The Coalition also has a library of culture change materials. To order a handbook (one per facility) or for more information about the lending library, contact [Carol Mace](#), Tennessee Department of Health, at 615.741.7461.

HOME HEALTH NEWS

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



July 2007 data shows that Tennessee home health agencies (HHAs) are continuing to improve in acute care hospitalization (ACH) and management of oral medications.

The ACH rate decreased from 32.47 percent in June 2007 to 32.43 percent in July.

Our statewide rate of 44.71 percent in oral meds exceeds our CMS target rate of 42.11 percent.

In addition to those achievements, 125 agencies now have a process in place that ensures patients have the opportunity to receive immunizations for pneumonia and influenza.

Tennessee Chosen for Home Health P4P Demonstration

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced plans for a home health pay-for-performance (P4P) demonstration, an important new step in its drive to become a more effective purchaser of quality health care.

CMS will begin soliciting HHAs for the project this fall with the actual demonstration performance period to begin Jan. 1. The demonstration will operate for two years in seven states.

CMS has selected the following states to provide a nationally representative sample of both HHAs and Medicare beneficiaries who utilize home health services:

- Northeastern region: Connecticut, Massachusetts
- Southern region: Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee
- Midwestern region: Illinois

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Nursing Home STAR Site
Setting Targets - Achieving Results

[Be A STAR!](#)



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- Western region: California

Read [more](#).

November is National Home Care Month

Each November, the [National Association for Home Care & Hospice](#) (NAHC) celebrates National Home Care Month, National Hospice Month, and Home Care Aide Week (Nov. 11-17) to honor care givers who make a difference in the lives of patients and the families they serve. This year's home care theme is "Preserving Health Independence and Freedom."

In honor of Home Care Month, the QSource home health team will be at the [Tennessee Association for Home Care Fall Conference](#) (Nov. 4-6) to recognize home care agencies that have made exceptional improvements in their ACH rates.

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 CMS. Click [here](#) to view the featured agencies.

ACH Campaign Intervention Package Available Now

The ninth Best Practice Intervention Package - [Fall Prevention](#) - 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 5,357 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 [November Calendar of Events](#) is available.

CMS Approves OASIS Data Set

CMS has announced the final rule regarding changes to the Outcomes and Assessment Information Set (OASIS), which will provide information needed for the revised prospective payment system effective Jan. 1. Read [more](#).

HOSPITAL NEWS



October MedQIC Update

A comprehensive list of topics ranging from immunizations to heart care to quality improvement is now available on MedQIC. Click [here](#) to see what's new.

PHYSICIAN OFFICE NEWS

November Is American Diabetes Month

November is American Diabetes Month (ADM), which is designed to communicate the seriousness of diabetes and the importance of proper diabetes control. ADM also focuses on type 2 diabetes risk factors and prevention, treatment of those diagnosed with the disease, type 1 and type 2, and support for their families.



The theme for this year's ADM is "The Many Faces of Diabetes" and throughout the month the ADA leverages opportunities both nationally and locally to raise awareness about a variety of issues relating to diabetes care and treatment. Learn [more](#).

QSource has available a Diabetes Road Map, which is a pocket-size booklet in which patients can keep track of daily blood sugar readings and readings performed during doctor's visits. Click [here](#) to order (English and Spanish) or call 800.528.2655 ext. 2664.

New Medicare Preventive Services Quick Reference Chart

A new Medicare preventive services quick reference information chart on the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) is now 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.

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](#).

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 U](#) (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.

FREE Resource from QSource

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

Study Finds 11 Percent Jump in Use of Electronic Prescribing Tools

The number of prescriptions sent to pharmacies electronically increased by 11 percent in a study by Walgreens, SureScripts and IMS Health, *iHealthBeat* reports. Read [more](#) (registration required).

Industry Coalition Unveils 'Blueprint' for Health IT

The eHealth Initiative recently released a consensus report on how the use of IT can enhance health care, *iHealthBeat* reports. Read [more](#) (registration required).

House Lawmakers Introduce Bill To Boost Health IT Adoption

Reps. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) and Mike Rogers (R- Mich.) recently introduced a bill aimed at promoting the widespread adoption of healthcare IT and establishing a timeframe for interoperability standards, *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.

email: lhouston@tnqio.sdps.org

phone: 800.528.2655 ext.2606

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

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