

CMS HOSPITAL THREE-STATE PILOT

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

FACT SHEET

February 18, 2004

Quality health care for people with Medicare is a high priority for President Bush, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). In November 2001, HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the Quality Initiative, his commitment to assure quality health care for all Americans through published consumer information coupled with health care quality improvement support through Medicare's Quality Improvement Organizations.

The CMS Hospital Quality Initiative, launched in 2003, uses a variety of tools to stimulate and support a significant improvement in the quality of hospital care. The initiative aims to refine and standardize hospital data, data transmission, and performance measures in order to construct a single robust, prioritized and standard quality measure set for hospitals. The ultimate goal is that all private and public purchasers, oversight and accrediting entities, payers and providers of hospital care would use the same measures in their public reporting activities. Among the tools we will use to achieve this objective are collaborations with providers, purchasers and consumers, technical support from Quality Improvement Organizations, research and development of standardized measures, and commitment to assuring compliance with our conditions of participation.

Overview

The CMS Hospital Three-State Pilot is part of CMS's overall Hospital Quality Initiative. Designed as a collaboration between CMS, the Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) in Maryland, New York and Arizona, and hospitals in those states. The pilot tests various approaches to public reporting of hospital performance measures. The Three-State Pilot serves as a "laboratory" for the National Voluntary Hospital Reporting Initiative (NVHRI) by testing and implementing various processes for hospital recruitment, data collection and transfer, data feedback and public reporting.

Purpose

In the Three-State Pilot Project, CMS is working with the QIOs to engage hospitals, practitioners, consumer groups, and other national, state and local stakeholders to accomplish the following:

- Report in Arizona, Maryland and New York on the same 'starter set' of JCAHO/CMS/NQF measures that are included in the NVHRI.
- Develop and implement recruitment strategies for all types of hospitals (including rural) interested in the NVHRI.

- Field study and psychometrically test the patient perspectives on care survey instrument, “HCAHPS,” currently under development by the Federal government.
- Develop web-based public reporting formats and test ways to communicate hospital and physician-specific performance information for consumer education and provider quality improvement.
- Identify and resolve problems related to data collection, transmission and other technical matters related to public reporting.
- Identify the characteristics of high performing hospitals and determine how these findings can be used to enhance the performance of all hospitals on the range of publicly reported performance measures. In conjunction with this research, examine the linkage of corporate governance and culture with performance assessment.
- Evaluate the impact of public reporting on hospitals, QIOs and the public at large.
- Generally tap the knowledge and expertise of partners nationwide in order to inform CMS’s longer-term efforts to report on hospital quality.

Collaborators and Partners

Partners and contractors with CMS and the three QIOs leading the Three-State Pilot include: the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the American Institutes for Research, Mathematica Policy Research, the Agency for Health Research and Quality, The University of Chicago (NORC), and independent consultants.