

CHA receives grant for national quality initiative

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The Colorado Hospital Association (CHA) has received a \$1.6 million grant that will enable 61 Colorado hospitals to participate in the Partnership for Patients campaign, a national initiative that aims to reduce inpatient harm by 40 percent and avoidable readmissions by 20 percent over the next two years.

Of the 61 hospitals participating is Melissa Memorial Hospital in Holyoke.

The Partnership for Patients campaign is a project of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

CHA was one of 34 state hospital associations that joined the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) in applying for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) funding. The total award for this multi-state “hospital engagement network” (HEN) was \$75 million. More than 1,600 hospitals nationwide are expected to take part in the campaign.

“The fact that virtually every eligible Colorado hospital has chosen to participate in our Partnership for Patients work shows the importance Colorado hospitals place on continuous quality and safety improvement,” said Steven Summer, CHA president and CEO. “They demonstrably want to ensure that patient care quality and outcomes are at the highest possible level, and we look forward to helping Colorado hospitals achieve their goals in this area.”

CHA will employ several nationally recognized strategies in this work, including engaging hospital management and physician leadership, sharing best-practice models and providing cross-discipline education, learning networks, technical assistance and other educational resources. Based on a recent assessment of hospital needs, participating Colorado hospitals will initially focus on five areas:

—catheter-associated urinary tract infections.

—injuries from falls and immobility.

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—pressure ulcers.

—preventable readmissions.

—surgical site infections.

Additional focus areas, such as reducing adverse drug-related or obstetrical events, may be chosen in the future based on hospital requests for assistance.

CHA represents 95 member hospitals and health systems throughout Colorado. CHA partners with its members to work toward health reform and performance improvement and provides advocacy and representation at the state and federal level.

Colorado hospitals and health systems are committed to providing coverage and access to safe, high-quality and affordable health care. In addition, Colorado hospitals have a tremendous impact on the state's economic stability and growth, contributing to nearly every community across the state with more than 71,000 employees statewide.

For more information, visit www.cha.com .

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