

Hospital Improvement and Innovation Networks (HIINs) – What You Need to Know

Alliant Quality... Working with YOU to make Health Care Better



Beginning October 1, 2016, the CMS Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program will incorporate a key component of the Partnership for Patients in order to sustain and expand national progress toward better patient care, smarter health care spending and healthier people.

Hospital Improvement and Innovation Networks (HIINs)—formerly known as the Partnership for Patients’ Hospital Engagement Networks (HENs)—will support the current work of Quality Innovation Network QIOs (QIN-QIOs) to reduce health care-acquired infections (HAIs) and decrease avoidable hospital readmissions for people with Medicare. This integration presents unique opportunities to accelerate improvement in more than 4,000 hospitals, expand infection prevention initiatives to thousands of outpatient providers and further strengthen CMS’ commitment to a health care system that delivers better-coordinated care.

Patient safety is a core focus of both the QIO Program and the Partnership for Patients. Alliant Quality has proven its effectiveness in improving care processes and outcomes by convening and assisting hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, physician practices and other providers; patients and families; and stakeholder organizations like public agencies, advocacy groups and provider associations. Likewise, HENs have demonstrated the capability, as hospital associations and hospital systems, to recruit and support the majority of the nation’s hospitals in multi-year programs to decrease patient harm.

These programs are more effective working in concert than either program is working alone. The new HIINs will assume the work Alliant Quality has been conducting with hospitals to reduce HAIs. Alliant Quality now will direct their infection prevention and quality improvement expertise toward the implementation of antibiotic stewardship programs in federally qualified health clinics, emergency rooms, physician practices and other settings of care. This broadens the scope and boosts the effectiveness of CMS’ HAI initiatives by addressing inappropriate antibiotic use in the community, which if left unchecked, builds resistance to drugs that treat infections.

Both HIINs and Alliant Quality will support the reduction of avoidable hospital readmissions. HIINs will build on HEN activities that equipped hospitals with education, strategies and tools for effective discharge planning and communication with post-acute providers. Alliant Quality will continue to bring hospitals nursing homes, home health agencies, and local community business organizations like the Area Agencies on Aging together through the Community Health Care Connection (CHCC) meetings in Georgia and North Carolina.

For more information, contact:

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