OHIO HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION HOSPITAL ENGAGEMENT NETWORK SELECTED TO CONTINUE IMPROVEMENTS IN PATIENT SAFETY

Columbus, Ohio – (Sept. 28, 2015) The Ohio Hospital Association’s Institute for Health Innovation is one of 17 national, regional or state hospital associations and health system organizations selected to continue efforts in reducing preventable hospital-acquired conditions and readmissions.

Through the Partnership for Patients initiative — a nationwide public-private collaboration that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid began in 2011 to reduce preventable hospital-acquired conditions by 40 percent and 30-day readmissions by 20 percent — OHA will participate in a second round of Hospital Engagement Networks to continue working to improve patient care in the hospital setting. OHA’s first HEN (2012-2014) was composed of 68 Ohio hospitals and generated a 55 percent reduction of hospital-acquired conditions and more than $100 million in cost savings.

“This award is a true testament of our clinical and professional teams’ leadership to develop effective strategies to improve the quality of health care in Ohio,” said Mike Abrams, OHA president and CEO. “Through OHA’s Institute for Health Innovation we will build upon the successes accomplished during our first campaign to continue bringing improvement to Ohio’s health care system.”

OHA’s engagement network will continue the improvement on core areas, including: early elective delivery, obstetrics trauma, catheter-associated urinary tract infection, central line-associated blood stream infection, falls, pressure ulcers, venous thromboembolism, surgical site infections, ventilator-associated events, adverse drug events – anticoagulation management, opioid safety and glycemic management and readmissions.

Hospital Engagement Networks will continue to work to develop learning collaboratives for hospitals and provide a wide array of initiatives and activities to improve patient safety. They will be required to: conduct intensive training programs to teach and support hospitals in making patient care safer; provide technical assistance to hospitals so that hospitals can achieve quality measurement goals; and establish, implement, and improve the system to track and monitor hospital progress in meeting the Partnership for Patients’ quality improvement goals.

Since the launch of the Partnership for Patients, the vast majority of U.S. hospitals and many other stakeholders have joined the collaborative effort and delivered results. The Department of Health and Human Services has estimated that 50,000 fewer patients died in hospitals, and approximately $12 billion in health care costs were saved as a result of a reduction in hospital-acquired conditions from 2010 to 2013. Nationally, patient safety is improving, resulting in 1.3 million adverse events and infections avoided in hospitals since in that time period. This translates to a 17 percent decline in hospital-acquired conditions over the three-year period.
The Partnership for Patients and the Hospital Engagement Networks are one part of an overall framework established by the Affordable Care Act to deliver better care, spend dollars more wisely and improve care. Initiatives like the Partnership for Patients, Accountable Care Organizations, Quality Improvement Organizations and others have helped reduce hospital readmissions of patients covered by Medicare by nearly 8 percent between January 2012 and December 2013 – translating into 150,000 fewer readmissions – in addition to the quality improvements.

“We have made significant progress in keeping patients safe and we are focused on accelerating improvement efforts through collaboration and reliable implementation of best practices,” said Patrick Conway, MD, CMS acting principal deputy administrator and chief medical officer. “This second round of Hospital Engagement Networks will allow us to continue to improve health care safety across the nation.”

The 17 organizations receiving contracts in round two of the Hospital Engagement Networks are:

- American Hospital Association
- Ascension Health
- Carolinas HealthCare System
- Dignity Health
- Healthcare Association of New York State
- Health Research Education Trust of New Jersey
- Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
- Iowa Healthcare Collaborative
- LifePoint Health
- Michigan Health and Hospital Association Health Foundation
- Minnesota Hospital Association
- Ohio Children’s Hospital Solutions for Patient Safety
- Ohio Hospital Association
- Premier Inc.
- Tennessee Hospital Association
- VHA-UHC Alliance NewCo Inc.
- Washington State Hospital Association

About OHA:
Established in 1915, the Ohio Hospital Association represents 220 hospitals and 13 health systems throughout Ohio. OHA, marking its centennial year in 2015, is the nation’s oldest state hospital association. With a mission to collaborate with member hospitals and health systems to ensure a healthy Ohio, OHA is focused on three strategic initiatives: patient safety and quality, advocacy and economic sustainability. OHA created the Institute for Health Innovation in June 2015 to lead patient safety and population health initiatives.

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