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National Quality Forum and the Partnership for Patients Launch New Patient Safety Webinar Series CMS

National Quality Forum and the Partnership for Patients Launch New Patient Safety Webinar Series CMS Administrator Donald Berwick, MD, MPP to Present at Inaugural Event Partnerships convened by the National Quality Forum and the Department of Health and Human Services are teaming up to launch a series of patient safety webinars, with the goal of helping organizations nationwide start and sustain changes that will lead to reduced health care-caused harm and cost.

Washington, DC (PRWEB) June 09, 2011

Partnerships convened by the National Quality Forum and the Department of Health and Human Services are teaming up to launch a series of patient safety webinars, with the goal of helping organizations nationwide start and sustain changes that will lead to reduced health care-caused harm and cost. The webinars are free, and available to all stakeholders who want to make strides in improving patient safety.

The Partnership for Patients-National Priorities Partnership Patient Safety Webinar Series will kick off on June 20, featuring Donald Berwick, MD, MPP, Administrator, and Joseph McCannon, BA, Senior Advisor, at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Hosted by the National Priorities Partnership (NPP), a multi-stakeholder group convened by the National Quality Forum (NQF), the interactive session will be audio-streamed from 1-3 p.m. EST.

The Partnership for Patients initiative, launched by the Department of Health and Human Services, was created to dramatically improve patient safety across the country. This initiative will engage stakeholders from the private and public sectors to reduce hospital readmissions and hospital acquired conditions – both of which harm patients and cost our health care system billions annually. On average, one in seven Medicare beneficiaries is harmed in the course of their care, costing the government an estimated \$4.4 billion every year. Additionally, nearly one in five Medicare patients discharged from the hospital is readmitted within 30 days – that’s approximately 2.6 million seniors at a cost of over \$26 billion every year.

As a means of accomplishing this goal, CMS requested the creation of a webinar series by the National Quality Forum-convened NPP to address the top priorities of the initiative.

“This webinar series will arm health care leaders with practical, tested, successful, and most important, scalable strategies in improving patient safety,” said CMS Administrator Donald M. Berwick, MD. We are delighted to work with the National Priorities Partnership to carry this program forward, and help extend the great work they have done over the last three years in this area.”

“Our hope is that these webinars act as accelerant in helping organizations immediately implement changes that save precious lives and health care dollars,” said Janet Corrigan, CEO of the National Quality Forum. “In our role as the convener of the National Priorities Partnership, and as an organization whose mission is to improve health care, we are honored to have been chosen to initiate and help facilitate this important discussion.”

The inaugural event, “Introduction to the Patient Safety Initiative & Standout Stories,” will take place June 20 at 1pm EST via interactive webinars. The introductory session will provide an overview of the initiative and set the context for the eight-part series. Participants will have the opportunity to submit questions for the presenters’ and speakers’ consideration. Success stories focusing on the two goal areas of hospital acquired conditions and readmissions will also be highlighted. In addition to the CMS presenters Berwick and McCannon, additional speakers will include:

- Gary Kaplan, MD, FACP, chief executive officer, Virginia Mason Medical Center
- John Toussaint, MD, president and CEO of ThedaCare



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Additional upcoming webinar topics will include:

- Care Transitions
- Adverse Drug Events
- Infections in the Intensive Care Units
- Surgical Site Infections
- Pressure Ulcers and Injuries from Falls
- Venous Thromboembolism
- Obstetrical Adverse Events

With each of these sessions, national experts will present effective solutions, and an expert panel of NPP partners will contribute to the follow-up discussion of how to realize these solutions nationally. The webinar series will be available, free of charge, for audio streaming. Space is limited, and advance registration is recommended to ensure real-time participation. All webinars will be recorded, archived, and made available on NQF's website after each event.

"NPP's vast experience in the healthcare quality field, particularly their work on the National Quality Strategy, makes them an ideal partner for the Partnership for Patients initiative," remarked NPP co-chair Helen Darling.

"This partnership is a natural extension of the work already being undertaken by NPP," added NPP co-chair Bernard Rosof, MD. "We are very pleased to be a part of this project."

Learn more about this webinar series and register for the first event. To learn more about the Partnership for Patients pledge, please visit their website.

The National Priorities Partnership, convened by the National Quality Forum, is a multi-stakeholder group including organizations representing the interests of consumers, purchasers, healthcare providers and professionals, state-based associations, community collaborative and regional alliances, government agencies, health plans, accreditation and certification bodies, and supplier and industry groups. To learn more, please visit: http://www.qualityforum.org/Setting_Priorities/NPP/National_Priorities_Partnership.aspx