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Northeast Business Group on Health Supports HHS's Partnership for Patients

Newly announced public-private partnership seeks to enhance hospital quality and safety and reduce health care cost growth

New York, NY, April 13, 2011 - Northeast Business Group on Health (NEBGH) today pledged its support for the Partnership for Patients initiative, a new partnership between the Obama Administration and private sector stakeholders that seeks to reduce hospital-acquired conditions and preventable hospital readmissions, medical mistakes estimated to cost more than \$50 billion each year. The Partnership for Patients, announced yesterday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, brings together leaders of major hospitals, employers, physicians, nurses, and patient advocates along with State and Federal governments in a shared commitment to make hospital care safer, more reliable and less costly.

Estimated to reduce preventable hospital-acquired conditions by 40 percent – compared to 2010 figures – by the end of 2013, achieving the Partnership for Patients' goal of keeping patients from getting injured or sicker is expected to result in 60,000 lives saved. This public-private enterprise is moreover expected to trim unnecessary hospital readmissions by 20 percent – compared to 2010 – by the end of 2013 and allow 1.6 million patients to recover from illness without suffering a preventable complication requiring re-hospitalization within 30 days of discharge.

“A commitment to collaboration among all health care stakeholders is an essential element to improving patient safety in our nation's health care system,” said Laurel Pickering, executive director of NEBGH. “Advancing value-based purchasing strategies holds remarkable promise in reigning in skyrocketing health care spending and employers recognize that linking provider payments to performance will have the twin effects of improving quality and reducing costs. And this blueprint, one grounded in an alignment of private and public sector payment strategies, is sure to accelerate systemic progress.”

Partnership for Patients seeks to reduce harm to patients in hospitals and to reduce the rate of readmissions by tying a portion of Medicare's hospital payments to performance on key metrics related to quality, readmissions, hospital-acquired conditions, meaningful use of health information technology and other value-based purchasing strategies. In 2013, six percent of Medicare hospital payments will be tied to performance in these areas and, by 2015, this number will increase to nine percent.



NEBGH, working closely with members and local stakeholders, has long supported improvements in hospital-based care through innovative payment reforms that reward enhanced performance as well as other market-based incentives. The regional roll-out leader for the Leapfrog Group's annual hospital performance survey, NEBGH has been a leader in promoting strategies that leverage the combined purchasing power of private and public payers to enhance value in the system. Since 2008, the employer-led coalition has been the convener of a forum where hospitals, health plans, and employers assemble to understand and explore promising models and efforts to advance improvements in patient safety as well as enhance hospital-associated value in care delivery.

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About Northeast Business Group on Health

Northeast Business Group on Health is a network of employers, providers, insurers and other organizations working together to improve the quality and reduce the cost of healthcare in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Since its inception in 1982 as New York Business Group on Health, the organization has spearheaded initiatives, conducted important research and launched innovative programs that bring meaningful change to the healthcare marketplace for employers in the New York metropolitan area. In November 2010, the organization changed its name to the Northeast Business Group on Health and expanded its mission to serve employers across the region. For more information, visit www.nebgh.org or call (212) 252-7440.

