



Care Transitions

Bridging Health Care Across Settings

For Immediate Release

Contact: Susan Burns
MPRO
(248) 465-7375
sburns@mpro.org

Lansing Area Health Care Providers Launch National Pilot Project to Reduce Rehospitalizations and Improve Care Transitions

August 12th is designated as Care Transitions Project Day in Lansing

LANSING, MI, August 12, 2009 — Lansing area health care providers are coming together for the first time as a community today to officially “kick-off” Care Transitions – a Greater Lansing health care collaborative to reduce avoidable rehospitalizations. Led by MPRO, Michigan’s Health Care Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), Care Transitions is a national pilot project to improve the coordination of care across health settings and reduce unnecessary readmissions to hospitals that may increase risk or harm to patients and costs to Medicare.

Michigan is one of 14 states selected by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to conduct this national project. MPRO identified the Greater Lansing area as the targeted community to do this important work.

Participants from area nursing homes, home health agencies, physician offices, hospice, and hospitals including representatives from Sparrow Health System and Ingham Regional Medical Center today are meeting at Lansing Community College – West Campus to interact for the first time as a community and will begin to establish “best practice.” Participants will network, learn more about identified barriers, and lay the foundation for the creation of targeted interventions to reduce unnecessary hospital readmissions. The collaborative will work to create interventions across settings to promote seamless care transitions. Stephen F. Jencks, MD, MPH, a national expert on Care Transitions, will address today’s gathering.

In honor of today’s event, Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero, officially proclaimed August 12, 2009, as “Care Transitions Project Day,” in Lansing. “I urge the citizens of Lansing to join me in recognizing Lansing area health care providers for their dedication to this pilot project,” said Mayor Bernero.

“Lansing health care providers are ready to begin work to develop system-wide interventions to remove silos of care,” said Robert Yellan, President and Chief Executive Officer, MPRO. “This project is unique in a community-wide approach to find workable solutions to improve patient care and communications across all health settings.”

The process by which patients move from hospitals to other care settings is increasingly problematic as hospitals shorten lengths of stay and as care becomes more fragmented. Reducing rates of avoidable rehospitalizations has attracted attention from policymakers as a way to improve the quality of care and reduce costs. Rehospitalizations of Medicare patients are prevalent and costly. Analyzed Medicare claims data from 2003-2004 reveals that almost one fifth (19.6%) of the 12 million Medicare beneficiaries who had been discharged from a hospital nationally were rehospitalized within 30 days, and 34.0% were rehospitalized within 90 days with estimated costs to Medicare in 2004 of more than 17 billion dollars.¹

MPRO is working intensely with the community of partners to reduce rehospitalizations. As the project progresses and gains further momentum within the Greater Lansing area, other community participants and organizations will join the initiative. To learn more about this project visit MPRO online at <http://www.mpro.org/pathways.htm>.

#

About MPRO

MPRO is a non-profit organization based in Farmington Hills, Michigan, and is a recognized independent leader in health care quality improvement, patient safety initiatives, clinical assessment and medical review. Since 1984, MPRO has been working with providers across all care settings and consumers regarding best practices to assess and improve the quality and safety of health care. MPRO’s mission is improving quality, safety, and efficiency of health care across the continuum. For more information about MPRO, visit www.mpro.org.

This material was prepared by MPRO, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Michigan, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 9SOW-MI-7.2-09-43

¹ Stephen F. Jencks, MD, MPH, Mark V. Williams, MD, Eric A. Coleman, MD, MPH, [Rehospitalizations Among Patients in the Medicare Fee-for-Service Program](#), New England Journal of Medicine, April 2, 2009.