



An Information & Quality Healthcare (IQH) Publication Serving the Mississippi Healthcare Community

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Available Tools:

The Core Measures Pocket Guide for January 1, 2014, through September 30, 2014, is available for downloading from the IQH website, www.msqio.org, Quality Initiatives, Reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections.

February 22, 2014
Annual Diabetes Super Conference
Marriott Hotel
Jackson

February 27, 2014
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
IQH's Learning & Action (LAN) Meeting, Healthcare-Associated Infections

Events

February:
National Cancer Prevention Month

Becky Roberson Named IQH CEO

Becky Roberson, senior vice president of Information & Quality Healthcare (IQH), assumed the duties of chief executive officer of the Mississippi Medicare quality improvement organization Feb 1. Dr. James S. McIlwain, IQH president and chief executive officer since 1997, resigned the position to serve as president of medical affairs for IQH prior to his official retirement from the organization Aug. 1.

A Certified Public Accountant, Ms. Roberson has been with the organization for 26 years and has also served as vice president of operations and chief financial officer of the company that also operates the Tobacco Quitline for Mississippi and Alabama. She has served as senior vice president since 2007. She has a B. S. degree in accounting from Belhaven College. She is a member of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants and the North American Quitline Consortium, serving on the board of directors. She chaired the finance and human resources network of the American Health Quality Association.

Dr. McIlwain has been with the company for over 20 years and has served in the capacities of review physician, medical director, and principal clinical coordinator.

IQH Commended for HAI Success

IQH was commended by Dr. Patrick Conway, chief medical officer of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in a 27-month evaluation for exceptional performance in its work to protect patients from harm from central line bloodstream infection through adherence to proper protocols. Dr. Conway, who is also the CMS deputy administrator for Innovation and Quality, stated, "We at CMS recognize your hard work and dedication to excellence that led to your meeting and, in many cases, surpassing the expectations for these Aims and Sub Aims." The accomplishment came through implementation of best practices through close contact with participating providers. Vickie Taylor, IQH's healthcare-

February 9-15
National Cardiac
Rehabilitation Week

February 12
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Capitol Day for the
American Cancer
Society Cancer
Action Network
Press Conference
11 a.m.

February 27
1-2 p.m.
IQH INTERACT
Webinar

March:
National Nutrition
Month

March 2-8
Patient Safety
Awareness Week

March 25
Diabetes Alert Day

April:
Save the Date:
April 24
IQH Learning &
Action Network
Meeting, Working
Together to Improve
Patient Outcomes,
focusing on all
projects, all-day
meeting, Table 100
Restaurant, Flowood

June:
June 12
10-11 a.m.
IQH Care Transitions
Learning & Action
Network Webinar on
Palliative Care and
End of Life/Hospice

associated infections project leader, who is certified in infection prevention, has been available to hospital infection preventionists as a source of information on practices and for onsite visits to work with key personnel to improve rates. Onsite visits with review of infection prevention processes and recommendations for evidence-based measures were attributed to the success of the project.

"WAVE" Entries Underway at Facilities to Showcase Patient Safety

A number of facilities are preparing entries in the 'Do the WAVE Mississippi' contest. Purpose of the contest is to offer the opportunity to recognize efforts of healthcare providers committed to reducing infections in their facilities. "**W**ash Hands," "**A**sk Questions," "**V**accinate," and "**E**nsure Safety" are the key words in the WAVE effort to increase awareness of reducing infections. The contest is sponsored by the Reducing Healthcare-Associated Infections Learning & Action Network. Entries can be in any chosen format, including PowerPoint presentations, posters, storyboard or videos sharing WAVE implementation efforts. Recognition will take place at the April 24 IQH Learning & Action Network meeting "Working Together to Improve Patient Outcomes." Call 601-957-1575 ext. 245 for more information.

Webinar on INTERACT Has Nursing Home Focus

A webinar featuring INTERACT, the evidence-based quality improvement program, is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 27, from 1 to 2 p.m. Mary Helen Conner, BSN, MPH, MCHES, IQH care transitions project leader, will discuss identifying problems early and the proper way to communicate changes in nursing home residents' conditions. Beth Gruzinskas, RN, LNHA, WCC, a corporate nurse consultant, will present challenges and successes in the implementation of INTERACT in three of her nursing homes. Contact Mae McDaniel, IQH nursing home project leader, 601-957-1575 ext. 221 for more information about the complimentary webinar.

Issues

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