



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

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Events

May

May is a month of several health-related observations, including:

Older Americans Month

National Stroke Awareness Month

National Nurses Week was observed May 6 to 12

National Hospital Week May 11-17

National Nursing Home Week May 11-17

Dementia Awareness Week May 18-24

World No Tobacco Day May 31

May 29 1 p.m.

Webinars Scheduled

"QAPI: Using Data to Drive Quality Improvement Projects" is the topic for a free webinar Thursday, May 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. Mae McDaniel, RN, RAC-CT, IQH project leader, will discuss how to use data to drive quality improvement projects. She will also demonstrate the use of root cause analysis and the PDSA cycle. Contact Mae at mae.mcdaniel@hcqis.org for more information.

Mary Smith, FNP-BC, ONP-C, will be the featured speaker for an IQH webinar on working together to decrease hospital readmission rates June 12 at 10 a.m. She will discuss hospice and palliative care as well as other aspects of this level of care. Contact Mary Helen Conner, project leader, mary.conner@hcqis.org for more information about the one-hour presentation, "Working Together to Decrease Hospital Readmissions."

Diabetes Focus

With nearly 12% of Mississippi residents diagnosed with diabetes and with 3% of the state's economy spent on diabetes-related costs, an intensified focus is combining the efforts of several partners. Mississippi officials are working with private technology companies and healthcare providers on a telehealth project to confront the diabetes problem. The Diabetes Telehealth Network includes an 18-month program with the University of Mississippi Medical Center and three technology partners helping uninsured project participants to better manage their diabetes. In June, 200 low-income residents with diabetes will be given tablets with Internet access that contain Intel-GE Care Innovations and GE Healthcare software. The software will allow the University of Mississippi and North Sunflower Medical Center to remotely monitor the symptoms and test results of patients. C Spire will then provide technical support for the wireless telecommunications services for transmission of patient data. Members of the provider teams will also check in with participants via videoconferencing to ensure they are making lifestyle changes to improve their health.

Prediabetes Focus: Lifestyle Changes

In other efforts, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Mississippi State Department of Health, Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, and numerous healthcare organizations are banding together to increase diabetes

QAPI: Using Data to Drive Quality Improvement Projects

-- free IQH webinar on using data to drive quality improvement projects and using root cause analysis and the PDSA cycle.

*June 12 10 a.m.
Working Together to Decrease Hospital Readmissions Rates
--free IQH webinar focusing on hospice and palliative care.*

self-management education in the state with the second highest ranking for diabetes. The American Medical Association is working with the CDC to identify patients with prediabetes and refer them to lifestyle-change classes to prevent type 2 diabetes. Organizations may apply to have a lifestyle program recognized. The National Registry of Recognized Diabetes Prevention Programs lists contact information for organizations offering the classes. Three sites are in the process of being recognized in Mississippi.

IQH has coordinated the Mississippi Health First diabetes project and a special project that targeted the high prevalence of diabetes in the Meridian area through diabetes self-management education (DSME) classes, working under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

100 Congregations for Million Hearts® Seeks Support

100 Congregations for Million Hearts® is seeking the action of faith-based organizations and communities to help prevent cardiovascular disease by focusing on hypertension control. Through clinical community linkages, the program places attention on hypertension by communities and providers, to increase self-monitoring by individuals with hypertension, sustain education about heart health, and grow a network of faith-based organizations. Congregations are asked to make a one-year commitment from the time of their partnership pledge to Million Hearts® and report their efforts to Million Hearts® Minority Health Team (MH2T) on a quarterly basis. In addition to designating a Million Hearts® Advocate, congregations are asked to commit to doing at least two of the following: Deliver pulpit and other leadership messages about heart health; distribute wallet cards or journal for recording blood pressure readings; promote and use the Heart Health Mobile App; and facilitate connections with local health providers and community resources. Partnerships participating in the program include health organizations such as the American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, and the Mississippi State Department of Health Stroke and Prevention Program.

For additional information about participating in the program, contact Lisa Camel or Willie Ann Thomas at IQH, 601-957-1575, ext. 257 or 217.

New DHHS Data Show Quality Improvements Across Care

A report from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides new data showing that hospital-acquired infections and other harms that happen to inpatients significantly decreased between 2011 and 2012, preventing nearly 15,000 deaths. A May 7 MedPage Today report reveals that hospital readmissions for Medicare patients decreased from 19 to 18.5 percent in 2012, dropping further to 17.5 percent in 2013. The report also found that from 2010 through the end of 2013,

pressure ulcers decreased 25.2 percent, and falls and trauma declined by 14.7 percent. The decline in infections, adverse drug events, falls and other hospital-acquired conditions meant that 560,000 patient injuries were avoided.

According to Todd Ketch, executive director of the American Health Quality Association (AHQA), "We're proud that the national network of Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) has played an instrumental role in the national quality improvements that the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services announced, including reduced hospital readmissions, adverse drug events, and more. All of these achievements have contributed not only to improved quality of care and quality of life for America's seniors and their loved ones, but also to significantly reducing health care costs nationwide." The national network of QIOs is the country's longest-standing, nationwide program to improve health care quality. IQH has a 40-year history serving as the Medicare quality improvement organization for the state.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/PublicHealthPolicy/HealthPolicy/45640>. The statement by the American Health Quality Association: <http://www.ahqa.org/about-ahqa/press-releases/ahqa-commends-hhs%E2%80%99-nationwide-achievements-improving-quality-care-while>

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