



## ***Partnership for Patients - NMHA to become part of Hospital Engagement Network*** (formerly HEC – Hospital Engagement Contractors)

NMHA is excited to announce that the Association will become a part of a Hospital Engagement Network (HEN) to assist New Mexico hospitals in improving patient safety in 10 targeted areas. With funding from CMS, NMHA and partners will work with the American Hospital Association (HRET) and 34 other state hospital associations to form the largest HEN in the country. Because the needs of individual hospitals are best understood by their state hospital associations, HRET will work through NMHA and partners to ensure that individual hospital's needs and challenges are understood and that each participating hospital receives the tailored improvement support that can help it to succeed.

The goal of the HEN is to reduce a set of nine conditions that cause patients harm by 40 percent and to reduce readmissions by 20 percent by the time the contracts end in 2014 or 2015. Participating hospitals will use process and outcome data for each targeted area to monitor their progress. The HEN network will provide a range of quality improvement support activities designed to meet participants' needs. Many New Mexico hospitals indicated an interest in participating earlier this year. We will be contacting hospitals early in 2012 with an assessment to help you determine the targeted areas in which you need to participate.

### ***What are the Hospital Engagement Networks?***

The HEN contracts are being funded by CMS as part of the partnership for patients. Their goal is to reduce a set of nine conditions that cause patients harm by 40 percent and to reduce readmissions by 20 percent by the time the contracts end in 2014 or 2015. Participating hospitals will use process and outcome data for each targeted area to monitor their progress. The HEN contractor will provide a range of quality improvement support activities designed to meet participants' needs.

### ***Who is HRET and how is it connected to NMHA?***

The Health Research and Educational Trust is the nonprofit research and educational arm of the American Hospital Association. They are partnering with 34 state hospital associations to lead the largest HEN in the country. Because of its size, the HRET team has agreements from many of the foremost experts in each of the 10 targeted areas to provide improvement support to hospital participants.

### ***What are the next steps for hospitals that choose to participate in the HRET-led HEN with whom NMHA is partnering?***

There will be webinar and face-to-face meeting in January 2012. Next steps involving participating hospitals are likely to include:

- Working with NMHA and partners to conduct a needs assessment that determines which of the 10 targeted areas the hospital will work on (1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2012)
- Selecting the mix of improvement activities in the targeted areas the hospital will participate in (1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2012)
- Select the set of process and outcome measures the hospital will need to collect (1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 2012)
- Begin improvement activities (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, 2012 through 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 2013)

### ***What types of improvement activities will be available to hospitals through the HRET HEN?***

NMHA and partners will work with each participating hospital to identify the set of improvement activities that are most relevant to the hospital's needs. Types of improvement activities and support that will be available include:

1. **Stand alone improvement activities** such as webinars, educational sessions and open-ended sessions where challenges can be discussed individually with subject matter experts;
2. **Topic-specific fellowship programs** to develop individual and team capability for implementation;
3. **Improvement collaboratives** utilizing the PDSA model, improvement advisors and learning sessions; and
4. **Ongoing learning networks** with site visits to selected sites and peer-to-peer information sharing and assistance.

***When will we get more information?***

We expect that by early January, NMHA will be able to provide you with substantially more information about each aspect of the project and that they will want to begin obtaining formal commitments to participate and working with you on the needs assessment by the end of next January.