

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Friday, August 5, 2011

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall, Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Re: CMS Announces New Quality Tools and Initiatives

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new tool for patients and caregivers and other enhanced initiatives to empower consumers to make informed choices about their health care, and to help improve the quality of care in America's hospitals, nursing homes, physician offices, and other health care settings.

The steps announced today include:

- A Quality Care Finder to provide consumers with one online destination to access all of Medicare's Compare tools – comparison information on hospitals, nursing homes and plans: www.Medicare.gov/QualityCareFinder.
- An updated *Hospital Compare* website, which now includes data about how well hospitals protect outpatients from surgical infections and whether hospitals care for outpatients who are treated for suspected heart attacks with proven therapies that reduce death: www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov
- An enhanced Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program under which QIOs provide technical assistance and resources to health care providers across the country to assist them in changing how care is delivered in hospitals, nursing homes, physician offices, and across care settings.

A press release and fact sheets regarding this announcement are attached. More information is available about *Hospital Compare* online at www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov and on the QIO Program on the CMS website at www.cms.gov/qualityimprovementorgs.

If you have questions about this notification, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation at 202-690-8220. Thank you.