

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Friday, July 8, 2011

To: Congressional Health Staff

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

Re: HHS Announces that Partnership for Patients Meets Goal of Hospital Participation

The Department of Health and Human Services announced today that nearly 4,500 organizations – including over 2,000 hospitals – have pledged their support for the Partnership for Patients, the Obama Administration’s new nationwide patient safety initiative. In less than three months, the Administration has met its goal of having 2,000 hospitals pledge their support.

With the collective effort of private and public stakeholders, the Partnership for Patients aims to reduce harm in hospitals by 40 percent in the next three years. This means a reduction in the number of preventable in-hospital medication errors, central-line associated bloodstream infections, falls, and other injuries. The Partnership also seeks to help patients heal successfully after discharge and to reduce 30 day hospital readmission rates by 20 percent over the next three years.

The Partnership for Patients also has the potential to save up to billions of dollars in health care costs, including significantly reduced costs for both the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

The Partnership for Patients has announced two funding opportunities created by the Affordable Care Act:

The Community-Based Care Transitions Program, authorized by section 3026 of the Affordable Care Act, provides \$500 million in funding for community based organizations in partnership with hospitals to help patients safely transition between settings of care. To read more about this program and how to apply, go to: http://www.healthcare.gov/center/programs/partnership/safer/transitions_.html
Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Second, the CMS Innovation Center has posted a request for bids for state, regional, national, or hospital system organizations to manage improvement projects that affiliated hospitals may join.

To read the solicitation, go to:
https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=4e5fb07c954f28a15dcfe35a31852b15&tab=core&_cvview=0.

For further information on the Partnership for Patients initiative, success stories, or to join go to: <http://www.healthcare.gov/partnershipforpatients>.

Please find attached a press release regarding this announcement.

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