



Illinois Hospital Association

February 22, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Executive Officers

SUBJECT: Joint IHA-MCHC PSO: Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety

The Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council (MCHC) and the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA) are pleased to announce a joint venture, the Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety (The Alliance), a Patient Safety Organization (PSO) designed to improve patient care and outcomes through the sharing and evaluation of clinical experiences and information. Bringing together the considerable resources and expertise of MCHC and IHA, the Alliance will focus on improving patient safety through shared learning among participating Illinois providers. While participation in the Alliance is voluntary, we hope that all hospitals will consider participating to benefit from this extraordinary opportunity.

In 2005, Congress passed the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act which encourages providers to voluntarily report data relating to adverse events, near misses and other patient safety events to federally certified Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs). The PSO collects and analyzes clinical data to assist its participants to improve patient care. Feedback reports can compare hospital performance at the local and regional levels and highlight areas for improvement. The Act requires that all patient safety data submitted to a PSO must be treated as privileged and confidential and therefore not discoverable. In short, this data can only be used to improve patient care and safety.

IHA and MCHC are currently developing the operating structure, establishing a board of directors and evaluating vendors to provide these PSO data and information services. We plan to have the Alliance begin recruiting participating hospitals by mid-April.



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With more than 200 hospitals in Illinois, the opportunity to learn from each other's experience is exceptional. The value of the PSO is to learn from the reported information and to improve patient processes and outcomes of care.

If you have any questions regarding the Alliance, please contact either of us or Trish Anen, MCHC vice president, at 312-906-6113 or tanen@mchc.com or Pat Merryweather, IHA senior vice president, at 630-276-5590 or pmerryweather@ihastaff.org. You will receive additional information in the coming weeks.

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