

March 2, 2015

Dear CEO:

Please continue your participation in the WSHA Partnership for Patients.

Over the last three years, Washington State hospitals and physicians have made extraordinary strides in making health care safer. Working together as a Partnership for Patients HEN (Hospital Engagement Network), we have achieved 23,000 fewer patient harms and saved the health care system $235 million.

We are excited to share with you that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid has announced Part 2 of Partnership for Patients. The continued funding of this project will help providers build on the strides that have already been made in improving patient safety. Participation is supported by the WSHA Executive Committee and Patient Safety Committee who stated that “Our work is not done! Continuing our work in Partnership for Patients is the right thing to do and must continue. Although successful, we have not yet achieved what we need to achieve for patients.”

*Providing care at least as good as the best region of the country.*

*Patient Safety Committee*

The Washington State Hospital Association and Washington State Medical Association will be working together to secure the next contract and reduce harm in the following areas. The measures with asterisks are tied to the Health Care Authority Performance Measures. *Note the strong overlap with the measures being used for payment.*

* Adverse drug events (ADE)
* Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)\*
* Central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI)\*
* Ventilator-Associated Events (VAE)
* Injuries from falls and immobility\*
* Obstetrical adverse events\*
* Pressure ulcers\*
* Surgical site infections
* Venous thromboembolism (VTE)\*
* Preventable readmissions\*
* Clostridium difficile (CDI) **(New)**
* Antimicrobial Stewardship (ASP) **(New)**
* Safe Imaging Practices **(New)**
* Sepsis Mortality **(New)\***

As part of our application process, we would like to secure your agreement to participate in the WSHA Partnership for Patients HEN.

Please sign and return the attached form by March 10. By filling out the attached form, you are helping to send a strong message to CMS that Washington State hospitals are prepared to take on this work. We understand that your final commitment to participate may require action by your board of trustees, and we are happy to answer questions as they arise.

The WSHA Patient Safety Program is a proven model for reducing and even eliminating many hospital acquired conditions, and our work has received national acclaim. Just like with the first Partnership for Patients contract, members of the WSHA HEN will be supported with:

* Added support and learning based on experience in LEAPT
* Access to local and national experts
* Special support in areas hospitals are most challenged
* Ability to compare data across state and with national results
* Individual and HEN-wide reports created for participants with integrated reports designed for systems
* Visionary leaders to facilitate and guide the work, learning from the best
* Strategies important for patients and areas targeted for payment changes by CMS
* WSHA Safe Table in person conferences, webcasts and small group focuses
* Enhanced design to be relevant and support rural needs
* Participation in a group large enough to provide benchmarking for hospitals with a variety of sizes and services but not so large as to hamper participants from receiving individual specialized assistance where needed

We look forward to continuing this work at the high level afforded us by Partnership for Patients, and we will keep you informed of our progress in securing the contract. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us or Carol Wagner, WSHA Senior Vice President of Patient Safety, at [CarolW@wsha.org](mailto:CarolW@wsha.org) or (206) 577-1831.

Sincerely,

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Scott Bond Carol Wagner

President and CEO Senior Vice President

Washington State Hospital Association Washington State Hospital Association

Attachment

**Partnership for Patients ~ *Working Together for Safer Care***

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (organization name) will be continuing our participation in the CMS Partnership for Patients initiative, working with the Washington State Hospital Association as the Hospital Engagement Contractor (HEC).

1. Partnership for Patients focuses the following strategies which are relevant to your hospital’s quality and are frequently tied to payment.

* Adverse drug events (ADE)
* Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) 1,2,3
* Central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) 1,2,3
* Ventilator-Associated Events (VAE)
* Injuries from falls and immobility 1,2,3
* Obstetrical adverse events 1,2,3
* Pressure ulcers 3
* Surgical site infections 1,2
* Venous thromboembolism (VTE) 3
* Preventable readmissions 1,2,3
* Clostridium difficile (CDI) (New) 1
* Antimicrobial Stewardship (ASP) (New)
* Safe Imaging Practices (New)
* Sepsis Mortality (New) 3

1*Linked to payment through Value Based Purchasing*

2*Linked to payment through the last Medicaid Quality Incentive*

3*Linked to payment through Health Care Authority Performance Measures starting next year*

1. Our organization has interest in improving care on CAUTI and readmissions, which represent the most frequent infection and highest cost harm respectively.
2. Our focus will be to bring national and local experts, building upon the success the WSHA HEN had in the original Partnership for Patients and LEAPT work.
3. Support will be customized for each hospital on those strategies where they have the most challenges.
4. WSHA cannot promise a stipend.

**Please return this form by March 10 to** **Megan Boucher at** [**meganb@wsha.org**](mailto:meganb@wsha.org) **or fax to (206) 577-1936.**

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| --- | --- |
| **Signature:** | |
| **Name:** | **Date:** |
| **Hospital:** | |
| **Title:** | **Phone Number:** |

For more information, please contact Carol Wagner, Senior Vice President of Patient Safety,

at (206) 577-1831 or [CarolW@wsha.org](mailto:CarolW@wsha.org).