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No Medicare Penalties for Hawaii Hospitals

Medicare released a list of 721 hospitals nationwide that are being penalized for having high rates for three healthcare-acquired conditions. **Hawaii is one of only two states to have no hospitals penalized.**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released on its *Hospital Compare* website the list of hospitals that are incurring penalties under the Hospital Acquired Conditions (HAC) Reduction Program in the upcoming federal fiscal year. The HAC Reduction Program imposes a one percent reduction to Medicare payments for hospitals in the worst performing quartile (25%) of national HAC rates.

Hawaii hospitals have outstanding quality results. The total number of hospital acquired infections in Hawaii hospitals in 2013 was 40% lower than expected based on national data. Compared with nationally expected levels, for example, central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) were 77% lower and catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) were 41% lower in Hawaii hospitals.

“This demonstrates the dedication that Hawaii hospitals have to provide quality healthcare to patients they serve. Even though Hawaii ranks consistently high nationally in quality results, Hawaii hospitals are not resting on their laurels,” said George Greene, President and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH). “Hawaii hospitals are continually focused on how they can improve even more, to provide the best possible care.”

Hawaii’s success was no accident. The Hawaii Affinity Team led by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii just completed a three year collaboration with Hawaii hospitals, Premier, the State Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, Hawaii State Department of Health, and Mountain-Pacific Quality Health. The rigorous initiative focused on reducing avoidable hospital readmissions and harms, including the HACs that determined the Medicare penalty. Hospitals and HAH also participate in the Healthcare-Associated Infection Advisory Committee run by the Hawaii Department of Health.

About HAH:

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii’s 140 member organizations include all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the majority of skilled nursing facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospices, durable medical equipment suppliers and home infusion/pharmacies. Members represent healthcare providers from throughout the continuum including assisted living facilities, case management, air and ground ambulance, blood bank, dialysis, and more.

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