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Hawaii Skilled Nursing Facilities Successfully Improving Quality Care

HAH celebrates member providers reaching national quality goals

Honolulu, HI – Today, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) praised a select group of local, long term care member providers for their achievement in reaching national quality goals set by its national association, the American Health Care Association (AHCA). Nineteen of Hawaii’s skilled nursing facilities met or exceeded at least one of four goals in the initial year of the AHCA Quality Initiative, a national effort focused on reducing hospital readmissions, nursing staff turnover and antipsychotic medications, as well as increasing customer satisfaction.

“Skilled nursing facilities across Hawaii are focused on improving quality, but these providers have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment by meeting our goals well ahead of schedule,” said George W. Greene, Esq., President & CEO of HAH. “These member facilities are setting the example for the rest of the state and the country on how to ensure person-centered care for our seniors and individuals with disabilities.”

Announced in February 2012, the AHCA Quality Initiative aims to further improve the lives of individuals receiving care in skilled nursing facilities by setting measurable goals in four, key areas of quality of care:

- safely reduce hospital readmissions within 30 days during a skilled nursing stay by 15 percent by March 2015;
- increase staff stability by reducing nursing staff turnover by 15 percent by March 2015;
- increase customer satisfaction by having 90 percent of residents and families willing to recommend their center to others by March 2015; and
- safely reduce the off-label use of antipsychotics by 15 percent by the end of 2013.

Even with deadlines yet to be reached, many HAH members are already achieving these goals. In the Quality Initiative’s initial year, 11 member facilities safely reduced hospital readmissions; 10 member facilities increased staff stability; and 14 safely reduced antipsychotic medications in accordance with the initiative’s goals.

A number of HAH member facilities also accomplished multiple Quality Initiative goals at once, with four achieving at least three goals and nine reaching two.

Hawaii facilities publically recognized for achievements in this initiative are
(on Oahu unless otherwise indicated):

Ann Pearl Nursing Facility
Crawford`s Convalescent Home
Hale Anuenue Restorative Care (Hawaii Island)
Hale Makua – Kahului (Maui)
Hale Makua – Wailuku (Maui)
Hale Nani Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
Hilo Medical Center (Hawaii Island)
Ka Punawai Ola
Kona Community Hospital (Hawaii Island)
Kuakini Geriatric Care
Leahi Hospital
Life Care Center of Hilo (Hawaii Island)
Liliha Healthcare Center
Maluhia
Nuuanu Hale
Oahu Care Facility
Pearl City Nursing Home
The Queen`s Medical Center
Wahiawa General Hospital

HAH members that achieved any of the goals of the Quality Initiative were identified through AHCA`s Quality Initiative Recognition Program. Member facilities had to submit staff turnover data and customer satisfaction results to AHCA, while the national association analyzed Minimum Data Set (MDS) data on hospital readmissions and antipsychotics for members. Hawaii`s achievers, as well as other achievers from across the country, will be honored at AHCA`s upcoming Quality Symposium, taking place February 10-12, 2014, in New Orleans.

For more information about the AHCA Quality Initiative, please visit qualityinitiative.ahcancal.org.

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ABOUT HAH

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) has been the leading voice of health care since 1939. The Healthcare Association of Hawaii`s 125 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 hospice programs, as well as other health care organizations including durable medical equipment, air and ground ambulance, blood bank and respiratory therapy.

ABOUT AHCA/NCAL

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represent more than 12,000 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit www.ahca.org or www.ncal.org.