



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“THE QUALITY INITIATIVE”: AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP

The following statement was released today by Chip Kahn, President of the Federation of American Hospitals:

Today is an important first step in “The Quality Initiative” – the unprecedented voluntary partnership announced last December by America’s hospitals, the federal government, national accrediting organizations, and leading consumer groups – that will lead to standardized information allowing Americans to compare how hospitals perform on key measures of care.

The data released today are preliminary reporting measures and are intended primarily for clinicians. However, they will lead to more data on more measures, and soon to a website designed for consumers and patients.

It is important to note that we are building this system from scratch because there is no national hospital data base. The initial sets of hospital performance data that we are gathering – pertaining to heart attacks, heart failure, and pneumonia – were chosen because they are critically important measures and many hospitals already collect this information. They were developed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, endorsed by the National Quality Forum, and are common conditions for which good care matters.

The Federation of American Hospitals is particularly pleased to note that investor-owned hospitals, which represent roughly 15 percent of the nation’s hospital beds, represent roughly 50 percent of the hospitals reporting data today. We strongly support the goals of this initiative and will continue to work hard to make it a success.

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The Federation of American Hospitals (“FAH”) is the national representative of privately owned and managed community hospitals and health systems throughout the United States.