



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***QUALITY MEASURES FRAMEWORK: AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP***

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

The Federation of American Hospitals is proud to be part of the unprecedented private/public collaboration announced today to bring about a framework for developing and reporting evidence-based standardized hospital quality measures. Our Board of Directors is deeply committed to this initiative and will work hard to implement it within our hospitals.

Today's announcement is a critically important stepping-off point for patients and their families. With this initiative, patients will be able to learn the strengths of the hospitals in their communities, and have the assurance that hospitals are working hard to improve the care that they deliver.

Today's announcement also is particularly welcome to hospitals because it gives us standardized "rules of the road" for reporting on our performance. Up to this point, hospitals were being pushed and pulled in different directions regarding performance, and these overlapping requirements take time and resources away from patient care.

We appreciate the leadership of HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson on this vital issue, as well as that of CMS Administrator Tom Scully and of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). We also commend our partner organizations – the American Hospital Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the National Quality Forum, the AFL-CIO and AARP – for their vision, dedication and commitment to the cause of improving hospital quality.

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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.