

February 8, 2021

Dear CEO:

We are pleased to inform you that the Louisiana Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation (LHAREF) is launching a new, voluntary Quality Improvement Initiative (QII) to offer ongoing, meaningful quality-improvement resources and support statewide. We will launch this program in March 2021 with a kick-off webinar, and the initiative timeline will be open-ended. **We are asking you to sign and return the Commitment Form by Monday, March 1, 2021.**

For the past eight years, the LHAREF has supported more than 100 hospitals as part of the Hospital Engagement Network (HEN) and the Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN) programs. The hospitals that were previously engaged with the LHAREF through these programs made significant progress in reducing preventable harm, which saved hospitals and health systems more than \$180 million in healthcare-related cost and saved 1,831 lives between 2016 through 2020 (HIIN), as well as saved an estimated \$335 million in healthcare costs from 2012 to 2014 (HEN). Despite these successes, there is still much work to be done, and we are thrilled with the opportunity to continue supporting hospitals.

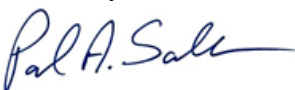
The LHAREF has partnered with an organization specializing in providing clinical quality improvement tools and resources, Convergence/Cynosure Health, to offer your hospital virtual access to high-quality, on-demand resources to educate your staff and achieve hospital-defined goals. In exchange, the LHAREF requests that your hospital submits monthly data on commonly-reported, nationally-standardized quality measures that the LHA and LHAREF will use to populate the LHA Executive Quality Dashboards for quarterly distribution. In addition, submission of the requested data will allow your hospital to benchmark against hospitals both in Louisiana and across the nation.

We have provided the Commitment Form for your review and execution stating your willingness to engage with the resources and learning opportunities offered, and your willingness to submit the monthly data requested. Once we receive your hospital's signed Commitment Form, we will send you a standard BAA template that will protect the data exchange between the hospital and the LHA/LHAREF, and define how the data will be used. The standard BAA is a generic template, and where applicable, the LHAREF will consider accepting modified BAAs at the system level.

We are asking for you, as the Executive Leader, and your designated quality lead to sign the Commitment Form. Please contact the LHAREF Quality Program Manager Michelle Smith at msmith@lhaonline.org or 225-928-0026, or LHA VP of Member Services and Quality Improvement Ken Alexander at kalexander@lhaonline.org or 225-928-0026 with any questions. Fully-executed, scanned originals can be emailed to Michelle or faxed to 225-923-1004.

Thank you in advance for your participation and commitment to reducing harm and improving care in your community.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Salles
President & CEO
Louisiana Hospital Association
Research & Education Foundation