

LHAREF Quality Improvement Initiative - Opportunity

For more than eight years, the Louisiana Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation's (LHAREF) quality team has engaged with more than 100 Louisiana hospitals in quality improvement work to reduce hospital-acquired conditions and readmissions as part of the Hospital Engagement Network (2012-2016) and the Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN) (2016-2020). In September 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the next iteration of its national hospital quality improvement work, the Hospital Quality Improvement Contracts (HQIC). Unlike previous programs that were all-inclusive, the HQICs focus on small and rural hospitals, as well as facilities that serve vulnerable populations, and participation is limited to only those hospitals on CMS' priority list.

To continue supporting hospitals not on CMS' priority list, the LHAREF has partnered with Convergence/Cynosure Health to provide high-quality patient safety improvement tools and resources through the LHAREF Quality Improvement Initiative (QII). Participation in the initiative will provide your facility with access to tools and resources to support your hospital's quality improvement work and continue the journey of reducing patient harm, addressing the opioid epidemic, improving behavioral health outcomes, and improving care transitions for our patients and communities. Additional resources will be available to support hospitals in responding to public health emergencies, like COVID-19, to ensure safe care and to facilitate preparedness for future public health crises. As part of the QII, the LHAREF will ask hospitals to submit data through a secure, web-based portal. This data will allow the LHAREF to continue providing the LHA Executive Quality Dashboards and provide comparative data on a regular basis. In addition, access to the data will enable the LHA to conduct analyses and identify trends to address statewide gaps.

What Will Your Hospital Receive?

The LHAREF will provide, at no cost, access to:

- **Virtual, on-demand, customized education learning modules** in the Cynosure Learning Improvement Connection (CLIC).
- **Clinical topic-specific resources and peer-to-peer resources**, including up-to-date checklists, discovery tools, change packages, and case studies.
- **"Community" ListSERVs** focusing on Public Health Emergencies/COVID, Patient and Family Engagement, and Patient Safety Focus Areas (i.e., clinical topics).
- Peer-to-peer networking and sharing at **virtual training events**.
- **Best practice hospital stories and case studies**, which highlight specific topics and provide detailed information on successes and lessons learned.
- **Data tools and resources including:**
 - LHA Executive Quality Dashboards that provide a comparative view against national benchmarks and the performance of other Louisiana facilities; and
 - Benchmarking against national and Louisiana hospitals

How Can Your Hospital Participate?

- **Commit!** Have your CEO and quality lead co-sign the **letter of commitment**.
- **Data Reporting:**
 - Execute Business Associate Agreement;
 - Confer National Healthcare Surveillance Network (NHSN) rights (if applicable); and
 - Collect and submit **monthly data** on commonly-reported, nationally-standardized quality measures.
- **Engage and Share:**
 - Engage with **subject-matter experts**, and share your improvement stories with peers.
 - Support changes within your facility by utilizing **cross-cutting improvement strategies** to improve patient safety on all topics.

Hospitals Will Receive Ongoing Support & Resources on the Following Topics:

Core Topics

- Adverse Drug Events (ADE)
- Antibiotic Stewardship (Includes CDI and MRSA)
- Behavioral Health
- Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)
- Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI)
- Opioid Stewardship
- Patient and Family Engagement
- Pressure Injury (Hospital-Acquired)

Core Topics (Continued)

- Public Health Emergencies (COVID)
- Readmissions
- Sepsis

Additional Topics

- Quality and Patient Safety
- Engagement (Leadership, Board, and Staff)
- All-Cause Harm Reduction Tools

Please contact your state lead at msmith@lhaonline.org with any questions.