



November 20, 2024

News from the CQO's Desk



**Apply Now!**

**WHA Quality and Patient Safety Awards - Apply by December 20**

This awards program recognizes hospitals that advance and improve patient outcomes in Wisconsin. All WHA member hospitals are eligible to apply and will have the opportunity to be featured at the WHA Health Care Quality Showcase in the Capitol Rotunda in conjunction with WHA's Advocacy Day in April 2025.

Find additional information on award eligibility, criteria, application, and more at [WHA Quality and Patient Safety Awards](#). **The application deadline is December 20, 2024, by 5pm.** Award winners will be announced in early 2025.



**Tomorrow is National Rural Health Day!**

The Wisconsin Office of Rural Health and the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health will celebrate the "Power of Rural" on National Rural Health Day, November 21, 2024. Whether you're part of a rural health team or just want to acknowledge the people keeping rural communities healthy and thriving, National Rural Health Day is for all of us!

Visit [PowerOfRural.org](https://PowerOfRural.org) to find ways to engage, from sharing on social media to joining events. See Governor Tony Evers' [Proclamation recognizing Rural Health Day](#) and celebrating the work of rural professionals who are bringing high quality health care to their communities.



Join the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, 1 p.m. CT, for an engaging live webinar celebrating National Rural Health Day! This year's event spotlights the transformative impact of the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP), featuring powerful success stories and innovative strategies from grantees and key partners. Discover how these community-driven approaches can be adapted to drive lasting change in your own community. Register [here](#).

Let's unite to celebrate the #PowerOfRural and spotlight the incredible efforts of #rural healthcare providers, communities, organizations, and State Offices of Rural Health.

## CMS Issues Final Outpatient Rule with new COPs for Obstetrical Services and Slightly Enhanced Payment Rates

On Nov. 1, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released its [final 2024 Outpatient Perspective Payment System \(OPPS\) Rule](#) with an overall 2.9% payment increase, slightly above the 2.6% increase it had proposed.

The rule also finalizes a significant update to hospitals' conditions of participation (COPs), by creating new conditions for hospitals (including CAHs) that provide obstetrics (OB) and maternal care. This is an attempt to fulfill aspects of the Biden Administration's 2022 [Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis](#) and the intention to utilize COPs was first mentioned in the 2025 proposed inpatient rule.

Among the new COPs proposed are:

- Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, requiring hospitals with OB units to adopt "well organized" processes for staffing and OB care delivery that CMS believes will improve quality, in accordance with nationally acceptable standards of practice.
- Requiring the organization of OB services be appropriate to the scope of services offered, such as ensuring good communication and collaboration with lab, surgical, and anesthesia services.
- Beginning Jan 1. 2027, hospitals must train staff on facility-identified evidence-based protocols to improve care delivery.
- Beginning July 1, 2025, requiring protocols for addressing OB emergencies and complications, and developing new patient transfer policies and procedures, including staff training.
- New mandates for how emergency departments maintain stores of equipment, supplies, and drugs, which must be "readily available."

## CY 2025 Outpatient Prospective Payment System Final Rule Webinar

DataGen will host a national webinar for hospitals on the CY 2025 OPPS Final Rule and Analysis on Thursday, December 5 from 2 - 3 p.m CST.

The CY 2025 Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) final rule webinar will give a detailed overview the policies adopted in CMS' CY 2025 Medicare OPPS final rule as well as the impact analysis developed by DataGen through your state hospital association.

Registration is required using this link: [Register here](#). You can review a [summary of the OPPS final rule](#) here and find members only reports behind the [WHA member portal](#).

## Creating Dementia-Friendly Hospitals

WHA recently hosted a webinar aimed at raising awareness of a toolkit to help hospitals become more dementia friendly. The session welcomed the insights and expertise of Dr. Sarah Endicott, a nurse practitioner specializing in geriatrics and psychiatric mental health nursing, who is also a clinical professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she teaches courses on the care of adult and older adult patients in both primary care and psychiatry; and Dr. Diane Farsetta, a biologist and the manager of the Center for Aging Research and Education (CARE) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing, where she fosters collaborations between



campus and community partners on projects aimed at advancing the health and well-being of older adults.

The webinar focused on an ongoing initiative to develop dementia-friendly hospitals, highlighting a comprehensive toolkit designed to improve care for individuals with dementia in acute care settings. It explored the key steps taken in developing the specialized training materials the toolkit offers. Central to the toolkit is a dementia-friendly framework that was shaped by valuable insights from family caregivers.

The toolkit is available now to help guide hospitals in training their staff on dementia care. [Click here to request the Dementia Friendly Hospital Toolkit PDF.](#)

For more information, or if you're interested in implementing the toolkit and receiving quality technical assistance, please reach out to [Nadine Allen](#), Chief Quality Officer.

## Age-Friendly Hospital Measure

As the U.S. population ages, we continue to see increasing morbidity and healthcare costs. Patients are more complex and often live with multiple chronic conditions. To assist in addressing delivery of care to the aging population, age-friendly initiatives were developed upon evidence based best practice.

As part of the FY2025 rule, CMS is requiring hospitals participating in the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) program to report on the Age-Friendly Structural Measure annually via the CMS Hospital Quality Reporting (HQR) system. Hospitals choosing not to participate in the IQR program will face a significant reduction in their annual Medicare payment update.

The Age-Friendly Hospital Measure includes five domains which reflect the [Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms Framework](#). Hospitals must evaluate and attest to activities within each of the five domains deemed essential to providing high-quality clinical care to patients aged 65 or older. [Age Friendly Hospital Measure: Five Domains:](#)

- Domain 1: Eliciting Patient Healthcare Goals
- Domain 2: Responsible Medication Management
- Domain 3: Frailty Screening and Intervention
- Domain 4: Social Vulnerability
- Domain 5: Age-friendly Care Leadership

Hospitals will need to comply with the measure beginning January 1, 2025, for the entirety of the 2025 reporting year, which ends on December 31, 2025. Hospitals would then submit attestations for the domains they were compliant with from April 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026. CMS expects that by attesting to these measures, hospitals will develop evidence-based programs and processes to support improvements in these high impact areas. This measure will be reported through CMS's Care Compare website.

If you are interested in additional educational opportunities regarding this new hospital measure, please reach out to [Stacy Kopp](#), Clinical Quality Improvement Manager.

## CDC Releases Healthcare-Associated Infection Progress Report

On November 6, 2024, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the Healthcare-Associated Infection Progress Report. According to the CDC, approximately one in 31 U.S. patients and 1 in 43 nursing home residents per day contracts at least one infection in association with their healthcare, which highlights the importance of improving patient care practices. While much progress has been made, more needs to be done to prevent healthcare-associated infections (HAI). In this report, national overall CLABSI, CAUTI, VAE, MRSA, and CDI continue to decline in 2023 compared to 2022. CAUTI, MRSA, and CDI 2023 SIRs are below pre-pandemic (2019) SIRs. You can read the full report [here](#).

## AHRQ Offering Resources and Assistance to Improve Diagnostic Excellence in Hospitals and Medical Offices

Is your hospital or medical office interested in improving diagnostic excellence?

Diagnostic safety events are common and pervasive across all healthcare settings, contributing to preventable harm in one in 20 outpatient visits and up to 250,000 inpatient stays each year. Healthcare organizations and clinicians need actionable, practical, and flexible resources to support diagnostic safety improvement efforts. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) recently developed several resources to help prevent diagnostic safety events: [Calibrate Dx](#), [Measure Dx](#), and the [Toolkit for Engaging Patients in Diagnostic Safety](#).

The AHRQ-funded Implementing Diagnostic Excellence Across Systems (IDEAS) project is now recruiting healthcare organizations to use and evaluate these resources. Participating in this important project could help your organization:

- Improve care and minimize the risk of harm from diagnostic safety events
- Receive support and training on the resources and gain experience measuring diagnostic quality with support from RAND, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), and other leading healthcare quality organizations
- Connect with and learn from other organizations through the project's Learning Collaborative
- Reduce opportunities for legal claims and lawsuits related to diagnostic safety events
- Obtain free continuing education credits through IHI
- Engage in activities in support of Maintenance of Certification improvement requirements
- Contribute to the greater good by using and evaluating these resources in practice
- Receive a modest stipend as a small token of appreciation.

As part of the IDEAS program, AHRQ will conduct a free administration of the Surveys on Patient Safety Culture (SOPS) Hospital and/or Medical Office Surveys with supplemental items assessing diagnostic safety.

If you or your organization is interested in improving diagnostic safety with added support and training, visit the [IDEAS website](#) or email [IDEASproject](#) to learn more.

### Educational Events & Resources

#### Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care (WAPC) Perinatal Substance Use Webinar Series

Join WAPC for this educational opportunity designed to meet the needs of a broad range of perinatal stakeholders who work with people affected by perinatal substance use. Sessions are held every other month January through November. There is no cost to attend the webinars.

**Upcoming Session:** Mental Health, Trauma and Substance Use  
**When:** November 25, 2024 – 12 - 1 p.m.

For more information about the series and additional sessions, click [here](#).

### Superior Health Quality Alliance



#### Superior Health's Tobacco Cessation Modules

Superior Health's new [Quitting Quickinars](#) are a resource to guide individuals on their path to becoming smoke free.

These bite-sized learning modules provide resources and information on how to work with individuals on their journey to becoming smoke free.

WHA is one of the eight-member organizations that make up Superior Health Quality Alliance.

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To review the most up-to-date quality and patient safety data for Wisconsin hospitals, visit [CheckPoint](#).

Nadine Allen, Chief Quality Officer - (608) 268-1817  
Marcia Egle, Administrative Assistant - (608) 268-1831  
Kelli Evenson, Administrative Assistant - (608) 268-1832  
Jill Lindwall, Quality Director - (608) 268-1842  
Jenny Pritchett, Clinical Quality Improvement Manager - (608) 274-1820  
Stacy Kopp, Clinical Quality Improvement Manager - (608) 274-1820  
Casey Zimpel, Clinical Quality Improvement Manager - (608) 274-1820  
General Quality Mailbox

Wisconsin Hospital Association  
5510 Research Park Drive  
Fitchburg, WI 53711  
Phone: 608-274-1820



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