



An Information & Quality Healthcare (IQH) Publication Serving the Mississippi Healthcare Community

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Visit [www.msqio.org](http://www.msqio.org)

### **IQH Insights**

**IQH Nursing Home Collaborative recruitment closes Jan. 31.** Contact Brenda Townsend, 601-957-1575 ext. 250 or Mae McDaniel ext. 221 for more information.

Nursing homes can improve care while reducing unnecessary readmissions to acute care hospitals by learning how to effectively identify, evaluate and communicate changes in a resident's status.

([btownsend@msqio.sdps.org](mailto:btownsend@msqio.sdps.org)  
[mmcdaniel@msqio.sdps.org](mailto:mmcdaniel@msqio.sdps.org))

Healthcare-Acquired Infections-C-difficil recruitment deadline is Jan. 31. Contact Vickie Taylor for more information:  
[vtaylor@msqio.sdps.org](mailto:vtaylor@msqio.sdps.org).

**JAMA Article Confirms Local Approach to Reducing Hospital Readmissions**

### **Useful Tools**

[New Care Transition Intervention Models Are Available](#)

[Updated Core Measures](#)

## **February 1: National Wear Red Day Wear Red to Begin American Heart Month Observation**

American Heart Month honors health professionals, researchers and heart health ambassadors whose dedication to fighting heart disease enables countless Americans to live full and active lives. The month is focused on reducing the burden of heart disease by raising awareness, taking steps to improve individual heart health and encouraging friends and family to do the same.

(<http://www.cde.gov/features/heartmonth/>).

IQH joins the American Heart Association's National Wear Red Day in encouraging everyone to show support in the fight against heart disease. The first Friday in February is the date that millions of women and men come together wearing red and committing to the fight against the deadly disease. IQH as the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for the state collaborates in efforts to reduce cardiac risk factors for heart disease, including high blood pressure, high LDL cholesterol, and smoking. Several other medical conditions and lifestyle choices can also put people at a higher risk for heart disease, including diabetes, obesity, poor diet, physical inactivity and excessive alcohol use. (Visit [www.msqio.org](http://www.msqio.org))

### **CDC Public Health Efforts**

Million Hearts is a national, public-private initiative of the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes by 2017. Co-led by the CDC and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the initiative brings together communities, health care professionals, health systems, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and private-sector partners to improve care and empower Americans to make heart-healthy choices. Million Hearts campaign information:  
<http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/index.html>.

## **IQH Analysis Department: PQRS Final Submission Deadlines Nearing**

Booklet

Reducing Adverse Drug  
Effects Tool - The ADE  
Pocket Guide

**Upcoming Events**

Mississippi Chapter of the American College of Cardiology's Preventive Health Symposium Saturday, Feb. 9, Hilton Jackson. Contact Jenny White, at [jwhite@MSMAonline.com](mailto:jwhite@MSMAonline.com), 601-853-6733, ext. 332.

National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week Feb. 10-16

IQH Healthcare-Acquired Infection round-table discussion Feb. 26, North Mississippi Medical Center, Tupelo. Contact Vicki Taylor, at or 601-957-1575 ext. 245 about upcoming meetings and webinars.  
[vtaylor@msqio.sdps.org](mailto:vtaylor@msqio.sdps.org)

**EHR Direct Submission:** Due Feb. 28, 2013, 10:40 p.m. CT Providers submitting data with an EHR direct submission product must have an Individuals Authorized Access to CMS Computer Services (IACS) account. For assistance with new and existing IACS accounts, review the Quick Reference Guides posted on the Physician and Other Health Care Professionals Quality Reporting Portal.

**Claims:** Due Feb. 22, 2013 Appropriate G codes and CPTII codes should have been included in your 2012 Medicare FFS billing as you submitted your claims filing throughout 2012.

**Registry:** Due March 31, 2013 Require arrangements with software vendors and/or other CMS-approved vendors to submit data on your providers' behalf. There may be a cost associated with these submission options. Arrangements should be made immediately, if interested in one of these submission options.

**DSV:** Due Feb. 28, 2013 Require arrangements with software vendors and/or other CMS-approved vendors to submit data on your providers' behalf. A cost may be associated with these submission options, and arrangements should be made if interested in one of these options.

**From the IQH Review Department**

IQH as the Mississippi Quality Improvement Organization participates in the Medicare Beneficiary and Family-Centered Care Program to help protect the safety and health of Mississippi Medicare beneficiaries and the integrity of the Medicare Trust Fund. IQH may review cases for quality of care, appropriateness of discharge, proper utilization and correct Diagnoses Related Group (DRG) assignment. Medical professionals perform the medical record reviews. Cases submitted to physician review for determination are conducted by reviewers with qualifications to practice medicine and an active license to practice. Physicians are invited to become peer reviewers and contribute to ensuring that healthcare dollars are well spent; to promoting fairness, accuracy and consistency; fostering continuous improvement in healthcare; and monitoring the quality of care for the good of patients and community. For more information, contact Stephanie Champion, Review Department manager, 601-957-1575 ext. 233.

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