

NEWS



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Information On Wisconsin Hospitals Continues to Grow 85% Now Report Safety Data, 4 New Quality Measures Added to CheckPoint

See them at www.wicheckpoint.org

MADISON (September 23, 2004) ----- The Wisconsin Hospital Association announced that it has added four new measures to the CheckPoint Web site that can help consumers evaluate the quality of care that they can expect to receive while in the hospital. Three of the new measures are related to smoking cessation counseling and a fourth measure indicates how often patients with congestive heart failure are leaving the hospital with clear instructions on how they can manage their care at home.

Smoking cessation counseling in the hospital setting has been proven to be one of the most effective points in the care process to positively influence long-term smoking behavior. The new smoking cessation measures in CheckPoint will allow consumers to see how well hospitals are doing in providing smoking cessation counseling services to patients who are being treated for heart attack, congestive heart failure, and pneumonia.

WHA is partnering with the University of Wisconsin Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention (UW-CTRI) to offer hospitals additional resources to advance their consumer education and support programs that treat tobacco dependency.

Michael Fiore, MD, UW-CTRI director and a national expert on tobacco research, praised the CheckPoint program for emphasizing this significant public health issue by reporting how well hospitals do in providing smoking cessation counseling and services, and then making the information easily available to consumers.

“We know that tobacco use leads to more than 7,000 deaths in Wisconsin every year,” Fiore said. “Monitoring treatments is the first step in ensuring that patients who use tobacco do not leave the hospital without receiving the counseling and medications that will help them quit.”

Just six months after it was launched, the CheckPoint program has 122 hospitals, which is 99 percent of the hospitals in the state, participating. Of these hospitals, 85 percent are reporting error prevention measures that indicate progress in meeting national patient safety goals and 88 percent are reporting measures related to the treatment of heart attack, congestive heart failure and pneumonia—three of the most common reasons for hospitalization in Wisconsin.

“The continued growth in both the participation rate and in the number of data sets that hospitals are reporting to CheckPoint are indicative of Wisconsin hospitals’ strong support for increasing access to information that will assist consumers in decisions that effect their health,” according to WHA Chair Charles Shabino, MD, chief medical officer of Aspirus in Wausau.

The CheckPoint Web site tells consumers how to use the hospital data reports, explains the data, and provides demographic and contact information for all participating hospitals. The CheckPoint Web site is located at www.wicheckpoint.org.

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