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WMC Lauds Health Care Quality & Safety Reporting Information Helps Consumers Make Good Choices

MADISON - Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Tuesday lauded CheckPoint, a new private initiative in which more than 100 Wisconsin hospitals will voluntarily publish health care quality and safety data.

"This is an important step in creating a healthcare market with informed consumers making purchasing decisions," said James A. Buchen, vice president of government affairs for Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce. "When consumers have good data, they can make good decisions about their health care, and that will ensure patients get better care and control costs."

The CheckPoint program will give consumers and employers reliable, valid data on five safety goals and 10 key clinical interventions that medical experts agree should be taken to treat heart attacks, heart failure and pneumonia. New measures will be added on a regular basis.

"I am convinced that informed consumers, given adequate cost, safety and quality information, and a financial stake in their purchasing decisions, will prove to be an effective driver of quality improvement and cost containment in our health care system," Buchen said. "Employers and employees must take the initiative to aggressively manage their costs by becoming more active, engaged consumers of healthcare."

The CheckPoint program will help educate the public on the type of interventions that they should expect from their providers and why these interventions are important. On March 30, the data will be publicly available through CheckPoint, initiated by the Wisconsin Hospital Association.

"The general public, employers and employees alike, must learn how to access such information and, importantly, how to act on it," Buchen said. "We must encourage consumers, business purchasers and insurance companies to direct their healthcare dollars to providers who demonstrate a commitment to patient safety, improving quality, and reducing unnecessary and inappropriate treatment."

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