

Additional Quotes Regarding CheckPointSM

From Wisconsin State Legislators...

"As the cost of health care continues to skyrocket, it has become a serious burden for families business and government. These increases coupled with the current state of the economy make it ever more critical that consumers are able to make educated decisions regarding their healthcare. The Wisconsin Hospital Association recognized this need and reacted with the 'Quality Accountability Initiative.' Theirs is a positive effort to ensure that reliable information on hospital quality is available as a tool for consumers."

Wisconsin Senator Carol Roessler (R-18 Oshkosh)
Chair, Senate Health Committee

"I applaud the efforts of the Wisconsin Hospital Association to provide meaningful information to help guide the public as they make important health care decisions. I am convinced that Wisconsin hospitals will collect and share data in a meaningful way with the public and the Legislature. This program is innovative and can serve Wisconsin citizens."

Wisconsin Senator Robert Jauch (D-25 Poplar)
Member, Senate Health Committee

"The participation levels in CheckPoint prove that hospitals are ready to share important data with the public about the quality and safety of health care provided in their communities. I applaud this provider-led effort and believe that the information provided improves the health status of those they seek to serve."

Wisconsin State Representative Gregg Underheim (R-54 Oshkosh)
Chair, Assembly Health Committee

"What is so positive about Checkpoint is that it's the Hospital industry voluntarily making good public policy happen - without waiting for government to make them do it. Checkpoint will be good for Wisconsin consumers and Wisconsin hospitals and I applaud the effort."

Wisconsin State Representative Curt Gielow (R-23 Mequon)
Vice Chair, Assembly Health Committee

From Health Plans...

The Wisconsin Employee Trust Fund has worked cooperatively with hospitals that are part of the ETF health plan to strongly encourage them to participate in the WHA quality efforts. He noted that they recently added language in their health plan contracts to encourage participation.

Eric Stanchfield, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds

From WMC...

"CheckPoint will give Wisconsin businesses access to information they need to help them and their employees make good health care purchasing decisions by providing comparative data on both cost and quality. Employers need to become better informed consumers because the most expensive health care is poor quality health care."

James Buchen
Vice President, Government Relations
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

From the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation...

"The quality of health care services in Wisconsin is literally second to none. I am terribly proud of the professionals and the facilities that I am aware of in Wisconsin. By any measure, we are doing a good job in health care in this state. I think efforts at self-improvement are fantastic. That is the wave of the future. Health care professionals provide good care, not because of mandates, but because of who they are. The fact that the Wisconsin Hospital Association and health care professionals are coming together to set the bar and then raise it should not be a surprise to anyone. I would love to see in the future such issues as reimbursement rates tied to performance measures. Your reimbursement should not be driven by geography but by the quality of care you are providing. This is a positive development and it is very exciting."

Congressman Mark Green (R-8 Oneida)

“This is an excellent idea—providers, on a volunteer basis, establishing criteria on which quality is measured in all hospitals in Wisconsin is a very positive development. The more educated and informed consumers and purchasers are, the better off we all are. It is my hope that federal government will look at Wisconsin as model for establishing a nationwide quality initiative.”

Congressman Ron Kind (D-3 La Crosse)

I am actually excited about all the quality initiatives that are taking off right now. WHA's initiative and the collaborative effort that others are involved in are good first steps. These efforts have the promise of getting to the detailed level where consumers will have access to quality and price data. We are looking at this in the Ways and Means Committee. I would prefer that any quality initiative begins and ends with the providers.

Congressman Paul Ryan (R-1 Janesville)

Society as a whole is better off when information is available to the public. Whether you are talking about how to prevent disease, or about who does the best job of treating disease, it is useful to provide as much information to the public as possible. Health care is a consumer-oriented field and reports like the one Wisconsin Hospital Association is initiating help give people the information they need to make the right choices about their health care.

Congressman Dave Obey (D-7 Wausau)

From Employers...

“I applaud the WHA quality and safety program, CheckPoint. We view every effort to measure quality as critical. One of our biggest obstacles is to not have measurements to know if our health care providers are improving. We think benchmarks are gold.”

Becky Cherney, President

Central Florida Health Care Coalition

“It is frustrating trying to make a good decision about health care. If you ask a provider how much it is going in, they can't tell you. I applaud provider organizations that are making strides in providing that information. The WHA initiative (CheckPoint) will get quality data to the public in a lot more coherent way so we can make intelligent decisions.

John Torinus, President

Serigraph, Inc.

From National Experts on Quality and Communications...

“Statewide quality initiatives are wonderful. I am delighted to see your hospital association taking the initiative to share information with their communities. This is vitally important.”

Martin Merry, MD

Health Care Quality Improvement Expert

Associate Professor, Health Management, University of New Hampshire

“I am absolutely convinced on the issues of public reporting that it is a positive and what it really amounts to is that you are telling your constituencies that you are prepared to be accountable. I think when it is said and done, you'll be able to be very proud of the fact that you did the right thing at the right time on behalf of your communities in Wisconsin.”

Kent Jarrell

Senior Vice President, Apco Worldwide

“In addition to the benefit of providing information to the public, the WHA Quality Initiative (CheckPoint) provides data that can be used internally to benchmark not only against others, but against yourself. It places the focus on getting better.”

Connie Curran

National Health Care Consultant