

## **CMS Announces Meetings to Discuss Public Reporting on the Quality of Hospital Care**

**CMS is sponsoring five public meetings to solicit input from health care consumers, payers, plans, providers and purchasers regarding its ongoing initiative to provide hospital-specific information on clinical quality.**

The CMS Hospital Quality Initiative, launched in 2002, aims to refine and standardize hospital data, data transmission, and clinical performance measures in order to construct a single robust, prioritized and standard quality measure set for hospitals that all private and public purchasers, oversight and accrediting entities, payers and providers of hospital care will use. This CMS project supports the efforts of the National Voluntary Hospital Reporting Initiative (NVHRI) as well as future CMS hospital quality efforts. As part of the NVHRI, hospitals across the country are currently voluntarily reporting a “starter set” of 10 clinical performance measures for three clinical conditions (heart attack, heart failure, and pneumonia) on the CMS website [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov).

The objective of these five public meetings is to provide CMS with feedback and comments which, together with input from CMS’s collaborators in the NVHRI, will be incorporated in a final set of clinical quality measures which CMS will take forward in late 2004. These public meetings will provide a unique opportunity to assess the face validity of and demand for measures proposed for the next round of public reporting on the clinical quality of hospital care, as well as to obtain more general opinions from audiences of end-users. With input from public and private sectors and consumers, CMS will identify a robust and prioritized set of measures, some of which are ready for the next phase of public reporting and others of which might require refinement or further testing, as well as areas where additional measures development will be necessary to adequately address priority areas identified by the Institute of Medicine and others.

Agendas for the meetings will incorporate:

- Introductory remarks by CMS
- Panel discussions with local representatives of the health care consumer, health plan, hospital, physician and health care purchaser communities; questions and comments from other meeting participants
- Break-out sessions for smaller-group discussions.

The schedule for the meetings will be as follows:

- April 27, 9am-noon: Hilton Boston Logan Airport, 85 Terminal Road, Boston MA
- May 17, 1-5pm: Holiday Inn Universal Orlando, 5905 Kirkman Road, Orlando FL
- June 8, 1-5pm: Cooper Guest Lodge, 12230 Preston Road, Dallas TX
- June 14, 1-5pm: San Francisco Airport Marriott, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, San Francisco CA
- June 28, 1-5pm: Oak Brook Marriott, 1401 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Oak Brook IL

**More information about these meeting can be found at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov). You can register to attend any of these meetings at [www.ipro.org](http://www.ipro.org).**