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Public Hospitals Nationwide Join Patient Safety Initiative

Kaiser Permanente partners to provide quality improvement programs at safety net hospitals

OAKLAND, Calif. – December 8, 2009 – Kaiser Permanente together with the National Patient Safety Foundation and the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems today announced the "Patient Safety Initiative at America's Public Hospitals." This two-year program is designed to enhance patient safety programs at public hospitals to ensure safe, high-quality care for vulnerable and low-income populations that depend on publicly supported health care institutions for medical care.

Kaiser Permanente contributed \$718,010 to fund 85 hospitals for the two-year program. Forty-two hospitals were selected for Phase I in 2009, with the remaining 43 to be selected for Phase 2 in 2010. There is potential to expand this program to all 140 NAPH member hospitals.

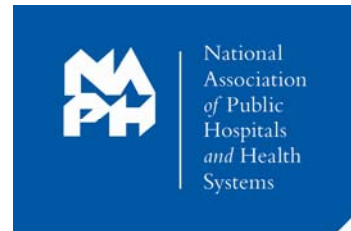
"The Patient Safety Initiative represents a shared commitment between the NAPH, NPSF and Kaiser Permanente that the hospitals that provide care to most vulnerable in our communities exemplify standards, practices and organizational culture that minimize patient risk and enhances safety," said Winston Wong, MD, medical director for Community Benefit. "Regulators and more importantly, our patients, expect an uncompromising program to produce system wide patient safety. This initiative is part of that promise."

The goals of the Patient Safety Initiative at America's Public Hospitals are to:

- position public hospitals on the leading edge of patient safety and quality care
- establish a consistent and shared pool of patient safety knowledge, tool sets, and techniques
- develop a community of public hospital clinicians, patient safety and quality leaders, and hospital executives committed to this initiative
- garner measurable results in patient safety practices
- create patient and community programs fostering communication that engages, informs, and builds continued confidence in care and the public hospital system.

"This unique partnership with Kaiser Permanente and NAPH is a remarkable opportunity for the National Patient Safety Foundation to contribute to the pursuit and delivery of safe care for the tens of millions of patients who depend on America's public hospitals each year," said Diane Pinakiewicz, president of NPSF. "We have deep respect and admiration for the commitment, determination, and skill of those at the forefront of care in safety net hospitals across the nation, and feel privileged to do our part, through NPSF patient safety programs and resources, to support their meaningful work."

"NAPH is very pleased to work with NPSF to bring this critical training to our members. We are grateful for Kaiser Permanente's leadership and the support from its Community Benefit Fund," said Christine Capito Burch, executive director, NAPH. "This fund has been instrumental in strengthening NAPH's quality agenda and bringing quality and patient safety resources to our members."



Participating hospitals represent diverse geographic locations and include single hospitals and larger systems, as well as those with nascent patient safety and quality efforts and those with more advanced programs.

Key focus areas for this program include enhancing the culture and leadership, infrastructure and measurement capabilities, and metrics for evidence in improving patient safety and outcomes at each of the participating facilities. Participants will have access to multiple resources including membership in the highly-acclaimed NPSF Stand Up for Patient Safety program, NPSF Patient Safety Congress registrations, health literacy and communications tools, measurement and analysis tools, and opportunities to apply for Patient Safety Leadership Fellowships.

“We believe that it is essential to strive for a long-term, sustainable patient safety and quality improvement program designed to drive perception, policy, and practice changes in public hospital settings,” said Doug Bonacum, vice president of safety management, Kaiser Permanente. “The mission and critical goal, is to deliver on the promise of achieving better outcomes for patients, removing inequities in care, and reasserting public hospitals on the forefront of patient safety and quality.”

About Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. We are recognized as one of America's leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Founded in 1945, our mission is to provide high-quality, affordable health care services to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve 8.6 million members in nine states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal physicians, specialists and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education and the support of community health. For more information, go to: www.kp.org/newscenter.

About National Patient Safety Foundation

The National Patient Safety Foundation® has been diligently pursuing one mission since its founding in 1997 – to improve the safety of the healthcare system for the patients and families it serves. As the widely recognized voice of patient safety, NPSF is unwavering in its determined and committed focus on uniting disciplines and organizations across the continuum of care, championing a collaborative, inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach. NPSF is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

About National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems

NAPH represents America's most important safety net hospitals and health systems. These facilities provide high - quality health services for all patients, including the uninsured and underinsured, regardless of ability to pay. In addition to functioning as the country's default national health insurance system, public hospitals provide many essential community - wide services, such as primary care, trauma care, and neonatal intensive care. Public hospitals also train many of America's doctors, nurses, and other health care providers. For more information, go to: www.naph.org.

Appendix of Phase I Hospitals Participating in “Patient Safety Initiative at America’s Public Hospitals:

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, Colton, CA
Cambridge Health Alliance, Cambridge, MA



KAISER PERMANENTE



Contra Costa Regional Medical Center, *Martinez, CA*
Grady Health System, *Atlanta, GA*
Harborview Medical Center, *Seattle, WA*
Hennepin County Medical Center, *Minneapolis, MN*
Howard University Hospital, *Washington, D.C.*
Hurley Medical Center, *Flint, MI*
Imperial Point Medical Center, *Ft. Lauderdale, FL*
Kern Medical Center, *Bakersfield, CA*
Los Angeles County and USC Healthcare Network, *Los Angeles, CA*
LSU Health Care Services Division (7 facilities) *Baton Rouge, LA*
Memorial Healthcare System (5 facilities), *Hollywood, FL*
Metrohealth Medical Center, *Cleveland, OH*
Nashville General Hospital, *Nashville, TN*
New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (7 facilities), *New York, NY*
North Broward Medical Center, *Deerfield Beach, FL*
Parkland Hospital & Health System, *Dallas, TX*
San Francisco General, *San Francisco, CA*
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, *San Jose, CA*
Sinai Health System, *Chicago, IL*
Stony Brook University Hospital, *Stonybrook, NY*
Truman Medical Centers, *Kansas City, MO*
University of New Mexico Hospital, *Albuquerque, NM*
University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, *Las Vegas, NV*
Wishard Health Services, *Indianapolis, IN*