

Background

Consumers and health care purchasers in Utah now have access to meaningful, relevant information about hospital quality. Utah hospitals want to be accountable for the care they provide to their patients, and they want the citizens of Utah to learn more about their own health care. To accomplish this objective, the Utah Hospital Association has developed CheckPoint, a public reporting program of quality measures in partnership with Health Insight.

The mission of CheckPoint is to develop consumer focused initiatives that will provide reliable, valid measures of health care in Utah to facilitate the selection of quality health care and aid in quality improvement activities within the hospital field. CheckPoint will:

- ❖ Provide information to purchasers to aid in benefit design;
- ❖ Provide information to consumers about the care that research has demonstrated leads to best outcomes;
- ❖ Provide information to consumers to facilitate their choice of insurance plan and provider; and,
- ❖ Provide information to hospitals for continuous quality improvement.

This marks an important first step in developing reliable and useful information about the quality of care provided to patients. UHA gathers data from 50 hospitals that voluntarily participate in the program, and, in turn, provide this information on a public Web site, <http://www.utcheckpoint.org>.

Measures

The first set of public information includes clinical practices. The clinical measures include 14 evidence-based practices in treating heart attack, congestive heart failure, and pneumonia, which are some of the most common causes of hospitalization. These clinical measures have been endorsed by the National Quality Forum, a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve health care through endorsement of consensus-based standards for measurement and public reporting of health care performance data. These measures include:

Acute Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack)

1. Aspirin given at arrival
2. Aspirin prescribed at discharge
3. Beta blocker given at arrival
4. Beta blocker prescribed at discharge
5. Ace inhibitor prescribed for left ventricular systolic dysfunction
6. Smoking Cessation Counseling

Congestive Heart Failure

7. Left ventricular function assessment performed

8. Ace Inhibitor prescribed for left ventricular systolic dysfunction
9. Smoking Cessation Counseling
10. Discharge Instructions

Community Acquired Pneumonia

11. Time to first antibiotic dose
12. Oxygenation assessment
13. Pneumococcal screening &/or vaccination
14. Smoking Cessation Counseling

Next Steps

To guide the ongoing development of this information set, UHA has convened the Utah Quality Steering Committee, which is composed of purchasers, researchers, Utah Department of Health, Health Insight, Utah Hospital Association, Utah Health Care Association, consumers, and health care providers. The committee envisions that the public reporting will be:

- Recognized as a national leader and model
- The vehicle to implement a full breadth of data and information to meet shared needs
- A stimulus for improvement in care quality and value of services
- The resource of choice for reliable, valid information
- An educational tool for the public

Additional quality measures and consumer focused educational information will be added to the CheckPoint program over time. Consumers can also visit myhealthcare.com for quality reports published by the Utah Health Data Committee.

The Advantages to Consumer, Employers and the Public:

- ❖ Enhance consumer choice by aiding in the ability to identify high quality providers
- ❖ Assist employers in designing benefits that incorporate quality as a component
- ❖ Promote evidence-based care in the public arena
- ❖ Raise the quality of care provided through competition and selection among providers
- ❖ Control growth of administrative resources, and
- ❖ Minimize conflicting, and sometimes misleading, quality information by providing a common, trusted source of this information.

UHA is interested in receiving input from purchasers, providers, consumers and other interested parties. If you have ideas that you would like to share with UHA on this program, contact Deb Wynkoop, deb@uha-utah.org or call (801) 486-9915.