



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Arizona lead efforts impacting care improvement** *Unprecedented results show promise for future care*

PHOENIX, AZ - Quality and performance improvement initiatives are driving significant changes in the United States healthcare system. This is due to The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services awarding a Hospital Engagement Network (HEN) 2.0 contract to the American Hospital Association (AHA)/Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET). HENs identify best practices proven to reduce hospital-acquired conditions and spread them to other hospitals and health care providers. These networks are a key element of the Partnership for Patients (PfP) campaign to improve the quality, safety and affordability of health care. The goal of HEN 2.0 is for each participating HEN 2.0 hospital reduces inpatient harm by at least 40 percent and avoidable readmissions by at least 20 percent by September 23, 2016.

The Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA), as part of the American Hospital Association/Health Research & Educational Trust Hospital Engagement Network (AHA-HRET HEN) was selected as a subcontractor for HEN 2.0 to work with Arizona Hospitals to continue the efforts with reducing preventable health-acquired conditions and readmissions.

We are excited to release the results regarding the reduced harm in the areas of: adverse drug events, catheter associated urinary tract infections, central line associated bloodstream infections, clostridium difficile infections, early elective deliveries, OB adverse events, pressure ulcers, readmissions, falls, ventilator-associated events, surgical site infections, sepsis and venous thromboembolism.

Data submitted demonstrates the important work being done by the healthcare community to transform the healthcare delivery system across the state. Arizona results show the participating hospitals have prevented 1,039 harms for an estimated savings of \$11,525,391 over nine months. Sandy Severson, AzHHA's Vice President of Care Improvement, stated, "We are thrilled with the hospitals progress in improving patient



safety and thank our collaborating partners, the Arizona Department of Health Services and Health Services Advisory Group for their ongoing teamwork to support safe patient care.”

The 16 Hospitals that participated in this effort include:

Arizona Spine & Joint Hospital  
Benson Hospital  
Canyon Vista Medical Center  
Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center  
Copper Queen Community Hospital  
Flagstaff Medical Center  
Kingman Regional Medical Center  
Maricopa Integrated Health Systems  
Mount Graham Regional Medical Center  
Northern Cochise Community Hospital  
Summit Healthcare Regional Medical Center Tucson Medical Center Verde Valley  
Medical Center Yavapai Regional Medical Center Yavapai East Regional Medical  
Center Yuma Regional Medical Center

Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association CEO, Greg Vigdor comments “Future collaboration and even more improvements will make a positive difference in the lives of patients and health of our communities”.

For more information on the Partnership for Patients and the Hospital Engagement Networks, please visit: [partnershipforpatients.cms.gov](http://partnershipforpatients.cms.gov)

#### **About AzHHA**

AzHHA is Arizona’s largest and most influential organization representing hospitals and patients. Our objective is to reform healthcare through Better Care, Better Health and Lower Costs. For more information, please contact [communications@azhha.org](mailto:communications@azhha.org) or call (602) 445-4300.