

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Announcing a New Regional Approach to Medicare Quality Improvement

HQSI Joins Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network

East Brunswick, NJ. (July 22, 2014). Healthcare Quality Strategies, Inc. (HQSI) will continue working with providers and New Jersey communities to improve health care quality as part of Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network, a new Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) chartered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The new regional network is comprised of five states (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia and Louisiana) and becomes effective on August 1, 2014.

“Partnering in a regional QIN-QIO allows us to share knowledge, leverage combined resources, and maximize the positive impact of our cumulative efforts, while still being able to serve our health care communities locally,” Mary Jane Brubaker, MCIS, Chief Operating Officer said. “This positions us well to make real progress toward CMS’s three-part aim of better care, better health and lower costs.”

In the coming weeks HQSI will be engaging providers and community organizations to become participants in many new and exciting, data-driven health care quality improvement programs, designed to improve clinical care and patient safety, locally and across the network. Areas of emphasis and assistance will include:

- Practice transformation
- Lean methodology
- QI innovation
- Cardiac health
- Diabetes self-management education
- Health information technology
- Hospital infections
- Care coordination
- Healthcare-acquired conditions
- Value based purchasing programs

QIN-QIOs are part of CMS’s restructuring of the QIO program to improve care for beneficiaries, families, and caregivers. Historically, CMS issued 53 QIO contracts, one for each state and territory, to provide both case review and quality improvement support services. The new structure is regional and establishes two groups of QIOs—one group for quality improvement (QIN-QIOs) and one for Medicare quality of care complaints and appeals (Beneficiary and Family Centered Care QIOs).

About the Network Partners

Quality Insights Quality Innovation Network is a collaboration between the West Virginia Medical Institute, its Quality Insights of Pennsylvania and Quality Insights of Delaware affiliated companies, Health Care Quality Strategies, Inc. (NJ), and eQHealth Solutions (LA). This new regional Quality

Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) is chartered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). For more information, visit www.qualityinsights-qin.org.

About HQSI

Healthcare Quality Strategies, Inc. partners with healthcare providers, organizations, and communities to improve clinical care and patient safety. They offer services including independent medical review services for plans and providers and quality improvement consulting for health care providers and foundations. For more information, visit www.hqsi.org.