FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Louisiana Hospital Association Launches Largest Healthcare Quality Improvement Project in Louisiana History

Baton Rouge, May 17, 2012 - The Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) today held a “Champions for Quality Care” program launch in Baton Rouge for its statewide Hospital Engagement Network (HEN), which focuses on improving patient care and reducing healthcare costs in the state. Ninety-three Louisiana hospitals have joined the LHA HEN initiative.

The goal of the HEN is to reduce avoidable patient harm in nine areas by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent by December 2013.

“This launch is the largest healthcare quality improvement project in the history of Louisiana,” said John Matessino, LHA President and CEO. “Our focus is on implementing a culture of safety and evidence-based tools to support patient- and family-centered care, and is indicative of Louisiana hospitals’ commitment to quality of care and patient safety.”

The LHA has been awarded a contract, in partnership with The Health Research & Education Trust (HRET), by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to support the Partnership for Patients (PfP) campaign. PfP is a national initiative launched earlier this year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

HRET is the largest HEN contract in the country with over 34 hospital associations and 1,600 hospitals participating in its network. There are five HENs operating in Louisiana. The LHA has the largest, with 93 participating hospitals.

“We are excited for our hospitals as they begin this extremely important work,” said LHA Vice President of Quality & Regulatory Activities Ken Alexander. “Providing quality care is a top priority for all hospitals, as they incorporate best practices and scientifically-proven methods to provide the best care possible for every patient.”

Department of Health and Hospitals Secretary Bruce D. Greenstein joined Cynosure Corporation CEO Bruce Spurlock, Dr. Michael Rosen from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Dr. Frank Opelka from LSU Health Sciences Center at today’s launch to discuss why this program is so important and why a change in culture is necessary.

“Just as every individual should own their own health, healthcare providers must take ownership of their quality improvement strategy,” said Secretary Greenstein. “I commend the LHA and its participating members for focusing on these initiatives to improve patient safety and lower costs for Louisiana residents.”
Over the coming months, best practices will be shared with participating hospitals to improve quality in the initiative’s 10 targeted areas:

1. Adverse drug events (ADE)
2. Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)
3. Central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI)
4. Injuries from falls and immobility
5. Obstetrical adverse events
6. Pressure ulcers
7. Surgical site infections
8. Venous thromboembolism (VTE) or deep vein clots
9. Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP)
10. Preventable readmissions

“Every patient is important, and it is crucial that our hospitals continue to receive the most current tools, resources and expertise so they can provide the safest, highest quality care,” said Matessino.

For more information on the HEN, visit www.healthcare.gov/compare/partnership-for-patients or www.hret.org.

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Note: See pages 3 and 4 for a list of participating hospitals.

Event Photo: http://lhaonline.org/associations/3880/files/HEN%20Photo.jpg
Photo Cutline: (left to right) DHH Secretary Bruce D. Greenstein joined LHA CEO John Matessino and LHA Vice President of Quality and Regulatory Activities Ken Alexander at the LHA Hospital Engagement Network “Champions for Quality Care” program launch in Baton Rouge.

About the Louisiana Hospital Association
Established in 1926, the Louisiana Hospital Association is a non-profit organization representing hospitals and healthcare provider groups across the state. The mission of the LHA is to support its members through advocacy, education and services. For more information, visit the LHA website at www.lhaonline.org.

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Louisiana hospitals participating in the LHA HEN include:

1. Abbeville General Hospital
2. Abrom Kaplan Memorial Hospital
3. Acadia-St. Landry Hospital
4. Allen Parish Hospital
5. American Legion Hospital
6. AMG Specialty Hospital - Bogalusa (Formerly LTAC of Washington/St. Tammany - Bogalusa Campus)
7. AMG Specialty Hospital - Denham Springs (Formerly LTAC of Denham Springs)
8. AMG Specialty Hospital - Feliciana (Formerly LTAC of Feliciana)
9. AMG Specialty Hospital - Lafayette (Formerly LTAC of Louisiana - Lafayette Campus)
10. AMG Specialty Hospital - Slidell (Formerly LTAC of Washington/St. Tammany - Slidell Campus)
11. Assumption Community Hospital
12. Avoyelles Hospital
13. Baton Rouge Rehabilitation Hospital, LLC
14. Bienville Medical Center
15. Bunkie General Hospital
16. Byrd Regional Hospital
17. Calcasieu Oaks Psychiatric Hospital
18. Central Louisiana Surgical Hospital
19. CHRISTUS Coushatta Health Care Center
20. CHRISTUS Highland Medical Center
21. CHRISTUS Schumpert Medical Center
22. CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital
23. CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital of Lake Charles
24. Citizens Medical Center
25. Crescent City Specialty Hospital of Gretna
26. Dauterive Hospital
27. DeSoto Regional Health System
28. Doctor's Hospital at Deer Creek
29. East Jefferson General Hospital
30. Franklin Foundation Hospital
31. Franklin Medical Center
32. Hardtner Medical Center
33. Homer Memorial Hospital
34. Hood Memorial Hospital
35. IASIS Glenwood Regional Medical Center
36. Jackson Parish Hospital
37. Lady of the Sea General Hospital
38. Lafayette General Medical Center
39. Lafayette Physical Rehabilitation Hospital
40. Lafayette Surgical Specialty Hospital
41. Lakeview Regional Medical Center
42. Lane Regional Medical Center
43. Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital
44. MMO Rehabilitation & Wellness Center
45. Monroe Surgical Hospital
46. Morehouse General Hospital
47. Natchitoches Regional Medical Center
48. Oakdale Community Hospital
49. Ochsner Baptist Medical Center
50. Ochsner Medical Center
51. Ochsner Medical Center-Baton Rouge
52. Ochsner Medical Center-Kenner
53. Ochsner Medical Center-North Shore
54. Ochsner Medical Center-West Bank
55. Ochsner St. Anne General Hospital
56. Opelousas General Health System and Opelousas General Health System South Campus
57. P & S Surgical Hospital
58. Park Place Surgical Hospital
59. Promise Hospital Baton Rouge
60. Promise Hospital of Baton Rouge, Inc. (MidCity Campus)
61. Promise Hospital of Baton Rouge, Inc. (Ochsner Campus)
62. Promise Hospital of Miss-Lou
63. Rapides Regional Medical Center
64. Regional Medical Center of Acadiana, The
65. Richardson Medical Center
66. Richland Parish Hospital - Delhi
67. River Oaks Child & Adolescent Hospital
68. River Oaks Hospital
69. Riverland Medical Center
70. Riverside Hospital of Louisiana, Inc.
71. Riverside Medical Center
72. Slidell Memorial Hospital
73. South Cameron Memorial Hospital
74. Southeast Regional Medical Center
75. Specialists Hospital Shreveport
76. Springhill Medical Center
77. St. James Parish Hospital
78. St. Martin Hospital
79. Surgical Specialty Center of Baton Rouge, LLC
80. The NeuroMedical Center Rehabilitation Hospital
81. The Omega Hospital
82. Thibodaux Regional Medical Center
83. Touro Infirmary and Touro Rehabilitation Center
84. Tri Parish Rehabilitation Hospital, LLC
85. Tulane - Lakeside Hospital
86. Tulane Medical Center
87. Union General Hospital
88. United Medical Healthwest - New Orleans, LLC
89. United Medical Rehabilitation Hospital
90. West Feliciana Parish Hospital
91. West Jefferson Medical Center
92. Winn Parish Medical Center
93. Women's & Children's Hospital, a Campus of The Regional Med Center of Acadiana