



Maryland
Hospital Association

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Hospitals make strides on quality, patient safety

Elkridge, Md. — The Maryland Hospital Association’s [annual report on quality](#) in Maryland’s hospitals highlights the myriad and effective strategies hospitals are deploying to improve patient safety. The report highlights the results of the longstanding, statewide efforts of Maryland’s 67 hospitals to improve the quality of care.

Among the findings are that hospitals have:

- Achieved a 90 percent compliance rate for hand hygiene in 2014, up from 71 percent when the program began in 2010 (proper hand sanitizing procedures are the most fundamental way to reduce the spread of infections)
- Reduced hospital readmissions by 4 percent compared to the previous year, faster than the national rate
- Maintained zero central line-associated bloodstream infections per month for 90 percent of the participating hospital units (central-line catheters — hollow tubes inserted into the body’s large veins — can cause infections if improperly inserted or managed)
- Maintained zero catheter-associated urinary tract infections among 83 percent of participating hospital units (catheters — tubes inserted into the urinary tract — are among the causes of this common infection)
- Reduced the number of ventilator-associated complications by 55 percent from the previous year (improper use of ventilators — machines that mechanically breathe for those unable to do so — can lead to infections)
- Reduced occurrences of obstetrical hemorrhage by over 20 percent and occurrences of obstetric lacerations by 14 percent

This report is timely as Maryland’s hospitals have just completed a full year of operations under the terms of a new agreement with the federal government that allows Maryland to continue to be the only state that sets hospital payment rates. According to the agreement, hospitals must perform well on multiple tests related to quality, including significant reductions in readmissions and hospital-acquired conditions.

“In Maryland’s new health care environment, the focus, as it should be, is on making sure patients receive the right care, at the right time, in the right place,” said Carmela Coyle, President & CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association. “At the heart of that effort is maintaining the highest standards for hospital quality so that every single patient is provided the safest, most effective treatment.”

Maryland's hospitals rely on several partners in their efforts to improve quality including the Maryland Patient Safety Center and the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality.

About the Maryland Hospital Association

MHA advocates for Maryland's hospitals, health systems, and patients before legislative and regulatory bodies. Membership is composed of community and teaching hospitals, health systems, specialty and veterans' hospitals, and long-term care facilities. Visit www.mhaonline.org for more.

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