



Winter Haven Hospital
200 Avenue F, N.E.
Winter Haven, FL 33881

More information:
Joel Thomas
Winter Haven Hospital
(863) 292-4334

Winter Haven Hospital earns ‘Attainment Award’ for four initiatives in Medicare, Premier healthcare project

WINTER HAVEN, FL – (August 17, 2009) – Winter Haven Hospital has been named a top performer in a national project that rewards hospitals for delivering high-quality care in five clinical areas. The on-going value-based purchasing project is being conducted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Premier healthcare alliance of 2,200 hospitals nationwide.

Based on fourth-year results from the Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration (HQID) project, Winter Haven Hospital received four awards for “attainment” in the clinical areas of heart failure, pneumonia, hip and knee surgery and coronary artery bypass surgery. As a result, Winter Haven Hospital will receive a bonus payment of \$29,657 from CMS, which awarded incentive payments totaling \$12 million to 225 hospitals nationwide.

Over the course of the project’s first four years, Winter Haven Hospital has received five overall awards, including Top Performer in the heart failure clinical area.

“Providing patients with care that includes the best practices known through research has always been a high priority at Winter Haven Hospital,” said Lance Anastasio, president and CEO. “Our successes in this project are a testament to our ongoing commitment to improve the quality of care that we offer our patients.”

“The successes of the hospitals – small and large, urban and rural, teaching and non-teaching – in the HQID project have led to its consideration as the basis for key national health reforms,” said Susan DeVore, Premier president and CEO. “As the proposal of a national value-based purchasing program becomes a reality, hospitals participating in HQID will have six years of experience with such model.”

The HQID is the first national project of its kind, designed to determine if economic incentives to hospitals are effective at improving the quality of inpatient care. Through the project, which CMS has extended for an additional three years, Premier collects a set of more than 30-evidence-based clinical quality measures from almost 250 hospitals across the country. The

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quality measures were developed by government and private organizations. For more information on the indicators, please visit the Web site at www.qualitydemo.com. HQID tracks progress and outcome measures in five clinical areas: acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft, pneumonia and hip and knee replacement.

Improvements in quality of care saved an estimated 4,700 heart attack patients across the first four years of the project, according to an analysis of mortality rates at hospitals participating in the project. In addition, patients received approximately 500,000 additional recommended evidence-based clinical quality measures, such as smoking cessation, discharge instructions and pneumococcal vaccination during that same time frame.

For hospitals participating in the HQID project, the average Composite Quality Score (CQS), an aggregate of all quality measures within each clinical area, improved by 2.2 percent between the project's third and fourth year for total gains of 17.2 percent over the project's first four years.

Additional research by Premier using the Hospital Compare dataset showed that by March 2008, HQID participants scored on average 6.9 percentage points higher (94.64 percent to 87.36 percent) than non-participants when evaluating 19 common Hospital Compare measures.

About Premier Inc.

The Premier healthcare alliance is more than 2,200 U.S. hospitals and 58,000-plus other healthcare sites working together to improve healthcare quality and affordability. Premier maintains the nation's most comprehensive repository of clinical, financial and outcomes information and operates a leading healthcare purchasing network. A world leader in helping deliver measureable improvements in care, Premier works with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service and with the United Kingdom's National Health Service North West to improve hospital performance. Premier has offices in San Diego, Charlotte, N.C., Philadelphia and Washington.

About Winter Haven Hospital

Established in 1926, Winter Haven Hospital serves as the major medical center for east Polk and Highlands counties and the U.S. Highway 27 / Ridge Corridor. The 527-bed hospital is a locally owned and operated not-for-profit organization. The hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and has more than 300 board-certified physicians on its medical staff representing every major specialty. Winter Haven Hospital is affiliated with the University of Florida College of Medicine/Shands Healthcare. And with more than 2,500 employees, Winter Haven Hospital is the largest private employer in east Polk County. Winter Haven Hospital has been recognized by Polk Works Workforce 2020 as one of the best places to work in Polk County for three consecutive years. In January, the hospital was recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) with the prestigious designation of Magnet status, a recognition granted to only 5 percent of the nation's hospitals.

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