

HQIP IN PRINT

An Initiative of the Greater Cincinnati Health Council

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE HOSPITAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

New Abstract to Highlight Congestive Heart Failure Quality Improvements

The Greater Cincinnati Health Council and the Ohio Hospital Association recently commissioned a special Writing Committee of community hospital doctors and registered nurses to help construct an abstract centered on providing an example of how a communitywide effort can produce exceptional results. The abstract will help feature the work of local Cincinnati area hospitals to others across the country as it will ultimately be submitted to the American Heart Association during their Quality of Care and Outcomes Research in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke Conference in May 2008 in Baltimore.

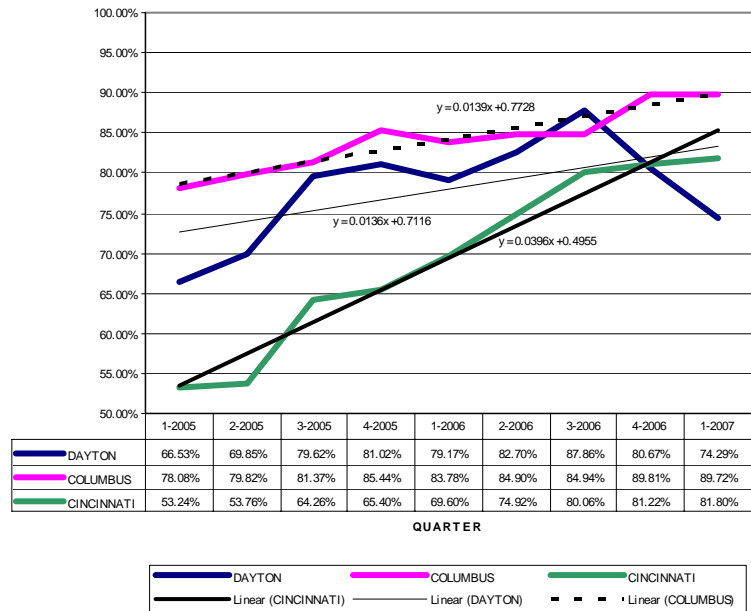
The title of the abstract will be *Working Together on a Single Mission Produces an Increase in Quality Improvement*. While the Writing Committee acknowledges that there is still room for improvement, the goal is to feature the Cincinnati area's work since 2005 to improve the community's perfect care score for Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) patients and to highlight that working together on a single mission produces an improvement in quality of care.

Writing Committee members include Santosh Menon, M.D., Christ Hospital; Creighton Wright, M.D., Cardiac, Vascular, and Thoracic Surgeons, Inc.; Robert Collins, M.D., Bethesda North Hospital; Nancy Kennedy, M.D., Dearborn County Hospital; Richard Snow, D.O., Applied Health Services; Debbie Hayes, R.N., The Christ Hospital; Sharon Hefertepe, R.N., MSN, TriHealth; David Engler, Ph.D., Ohio Hospital Association; Mary Drake,

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HF PATIENT LEVEL BY REGION



The above graph illustrates the improvements shown by Cincinnati area hospitals in the perfect care score for Congestive Heart Failure patients

Manager, Data Initiatives, Ohio Hospital Association; and Dora Anim, M.P.A., Assistant Vice-President, Quality and Data, Greater Cincinnati Health Council.

"The group-wide effort has played a large part in the improvement of the [perfect care] score," said Dr. Santosh Menon, Associate Medical Director of the Congestive Heart Failure Program at The Christ Hospital. "This is sort of an umbrella effort which motivated individual centers to continue to improve the score."

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CHF, continued from page 1

From January 2005 to January 2007, the perfect care score for CHF patients at Cincinnati area hospitals dramatically increased from 53.2 percent to 81.8 percent. Much of the improvement surfaced after ensuing discussions regarding best practice and overall goal-setting for CHF care. To culminate those discussions, an educational program was launched during the first quarter of 2006 in Cincinnati emphasizing the region's top performers among collaboratives and the methods they were using to upgrade care.

The abstract can be submitted between October 19, 2007 and January 18, 2008, and abstract acceptance notification will be sent in March, 2008. Accepted abstracts will be published online in a May 2008 edition of *The Circulation Journal*.

Menon said that the CHF Writing Committee hopes to do more in-depth work in the future to continue to improve patient care across the region.

"Hopefully we can make it into a model for other communities," he added.

HQIP Meetings Aim to Conceive New Ideas and Share Information

On August 21st and August 29th, the Greater Cincinnati Health Council held a pair of Health Quality Improvement Project (HQIP) evaluation meetings which featured representatives from each of the committees involved with HQIP. The Joint Steering Committee and Medical Directors met on August 21st, and the Quality Council met on August 29th.

Both meetings were facilitated by Helen Habbert, Principal of QRC Associates, and each meeting was designed to evaluate the current status of HQIP itself, to discuss fresh ideas, and to provide new long-term goals over the next three to five years.

"Having worked on a variety of projects over the past 12 years with the Health Council and the Health Improvement Collaborative, I am always impressed by the high level of professional expertise and commitment to their work," said Habbert. "The HQIP evaluation effort is no exception, and the GCHC staff is knowledgeable and well-organized, as always, in supporting and directing committee activities."

The dominant theme echoed throughout both meetings is that the Committees are prepared to move beyond the core measures and are now seeking to tackle new hot topics that are currently preva-

lent, such as patient safety, disaster planning, and infection rates, as well as aiming to provide tools to both hospitals and patients in an effort to create better decisions.

"Focus group participants from member hospitals are eager to engage in 'big picture' discussions of project value and benefits for the community as a whole," said Habbert.

Both committees determined that over the next three to five years, the driving force behind the success of HQIP will be transparency among local community hospitals. Sharing data throughout the community and between other communities will be a critical factor in improving overall quality throughout the Cincinnati area. By striving toward being proactive and sharing good information, each hospital in the community will stand to benefit highly from new, innovative thinking.

As Habbert notes, the long-term goal of the HQIP effort is to work together to improve health care throughout the community.

"This evaluation process ultimately will help enhance both this particular initiative and the overall quality of health care in the Cincinnati region," she added.

Upcoming Meetings

Joint Steering Committee & Medical Directors

- Mon. Nov. 26, 2007, 10:00-11:30
- Wed. March 5, 2008, 7:30-9:00
- Wed. June 4, 2008, 7:30-9:00
- Wed. Sept. 3, 2008, 7:30-9:00
- Wed. Dec. 3, 2008, 7:30-9:00

Quality Council

- Wed. Nov. 28, 2007, 9:00-10:30
- Wed. March 19, 2008, 9:00-10:30
- Tues. June 17, 2008, 9:00-10:30
- Wed. Sept. 17, 2008, 9:00-10:30
- Tues. Dec. 16, 2008, 9:00-10:30

All meetings to be held at the **Health Council**, unless otherwise noted.

Participating Hospitals

- ◆ Brown County General Hospital
- ◆ The Christ Hospital
- ◆ CMH Regional Health System/Clinton Memorial Hospital
- ◆ Dearborn County Hospital
- ◆ Highland District Hospital
- ◆ McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital
- ◆ Middletown Regional Hospital
- ◆ Health Alliance—The University Hospital
- ◆ Health Alliance—Fort Hamilton Hospital
- ◆ Health Alliance—The Jewish Hospital
- ◆ MHP—Mercy Hospital Anderson
- ◆ MHP—Mercy Hospital Clermont
- ◆ MHP—Mercy Hospital Fairfield
- ◆ MHP—Mercy Hospital Mt. Airy
- ◆ MHP—Mercy Hospital Western Hills
- ◆ St. Luke Hospital East
- ◆ St. Luke Hospital West
- ◆ TriHealth—Bethesda North Hospital
- ◆ TriHealth—Good Samaritan Hospital

For more information on the **Hospital Quality Improvement Project**:

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Any story ideas? Email us!
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