



News Release

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New Web Site Opens Window on Charges, Payments, Quality of Care at Michigan Hospitals

Consumers Get More Access to Hospital Data

Fremont, Michigan... A new Web site launched in January empowers Michigan patients, families, employers and other consumers with more information about the charges, payments and quality of care at Michigan hospitals, including Gerber Memorial Health Services (GMHS).

MI Hospital Inform (www.MIHospitalInform.org) is a voluntary consumer service of the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) and the state's 146 nonprofit community hospitals. "The site presents Michigan hospital charges, payments and quality data in unprecedented detail and accessibility," said MHA President Spencer Johnson.

"Until now, this level of detail about the pricing and quality of care at Michigan hospitals has not been readily available to the public," Johnson said. "The business

community, regulators, elected officials and consumer advocates regularly seek more transparency in health care data. Michigan hospitals are proud to voluntarily open this window on our charges, payments and quality information for all consumers to consider in their health care decisions.”

Consumers can access www.MIHospitalInform.org free of charge.

“Gerber Memorial Health Services is proud to join with nonprofit hospitals in offering a significant new public service to health care consumers,” said Ned Hughes, President of GMHS. “Health care providers must lead efforts to help consumers better understand the health care services they receive, and increased transparency is part of the answer.”

— **MORE** —

Available on the Web site is pricing information for the 50 most frequent inpatient and 50 most frequent outpatient medical procedures (clinical diagnoses and treatments) monitored and covered by Medicare. Specifically, consumers will find the average charge, average payment, average length of stay (inpatient only), and total number of patients who were treated for each of the medical procedures at Michigan hospitals. The Medicare data compiled on the site came from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), a credible and independent source.

The MHA notes that, while Medicare data are good indicators of pricing and quality at Michigan hospitals, consumers should not base their health care treatment decisions exclusively on this information. Consumers are encouraged to contact their local hospital, personal physician and insurance company for additional information.

“We started with Medicare data because Medicare represents a large segment of patients in Michigan and the data are available from a reliable and credible source,” Johnson said. “The MHA will build on that base to improve and expand the information available on the Web site in the future.”

MI Hospital Inform is another example of the leadership of Michigan’s nonprofit community hospitals, which continue to volunteer significant resources to improve health care pricing, quality and access:

- Through the MHA Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality, Michigan hospitals have launched groundbreaking programs to reduce medical errors and

improve the quality of patient care delivered at the bedside. This voluntary effort has been nationally acclaimed for saving thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of dollars in hospitals across Michigan.

- Through the MHA, Michigan hospitals in the mid-1990s were among the first in the nation to voluntarily report hospital-specific quality measures and have since expanded their efforts to lead in the reporting of community benefits performed within their localities.
- Through the MHA and under the guidelines of federal law, Michigan hospitals are developing the MHA Patient Safety Organization (PSO) to voluntarily identify adverse events and pursue corrective action. By analyzing patient safety data, the PSO will further encourage a culture of safety through the dissemination of information on how to effectively minimize patient risks in hospitals across the state.

Consumers may also access this site through the GMHS Web Site:

www.gerberhospital.org.

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