



Last week, the American Hospital Association's Rich Umbdenstock and the AFL-CIO's Gerry Shea joined Secretary Leavitt to announce that two measures related to heart attack and heart failure have been added to CMS' *Hospital Compare* Web site.

CMS Quality Information Available Online

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) publicly reports information about the quality of hospitals, nursing homes, dialysis facilities, home health agencies, Medicare Advantage plans, and Prescription Drug plans. This information is available on CMS' Compare Web sites and is searchable by provider, plan, or geography. Updated just last week, the [Hospital Compare Web site](#) provides information about how well hospitals care for their adult heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, or surgical patients. These reports are based on hospital-reported data using quality measures adopted by the Hospital Quality Alliance. [Click here to read more](#) about the updates to *Hospital Compare*, or visit other *Compare* Web sites at www.medicare.gov.

Physicians Provide Leadership on Quality

The American Medical Association's (AMA) Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement is playing a key leadership role in enhancing health care quality and patient safety. Through the development of evidence-based clinical performance measures for physicians, the consortium's quality improvement work has provided the foundation for HHS programs like the CMS Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). This AMA-convened group was created in 2000 and is comprised of more than 100 national medical specialty and state medical societies, the Council of Medical Specialty Societies, the American Board of Medical Specialties and its member boards, and others. Eighty percent of the PQRI's quality measures were developed by the consortium. [Read more](#) about PQRI reporting and quality measures.

Profile of a Community Leader: Rochester Business Alliance

The city of Rochester, New York had traditionally been a national leader in containing health care costs. However, over the course of a decade, the city watched this advantage slip away as costs increased. Under the leadership of the Rochester Business Alliance (RBA), the city has begun to reverse the trend by moving toward a more collaborative and data-driven approach to health care. By adopting the four cornerstones of value-driven health care, RBA has been able help Rochester's insurers and providers once again become leaders in quality, cost-contained care. RBA is a Value-Driven Health Care Community Leader that demonstrates how a dedicated group of citizens can help transform our health care system.



The Rochester Business Alliance is working in many ways to achieve better health care at lower cost. Pictured is RBA President Sandy Parker launching the 2007 "Eat Well. Live Well. Challenge."

Tell Us Your Story!

Has applying one or more of the four cornerstones made a difference in the quality or value of health care in your community? E-mail your story to valuedriven@hhs.gov for possible publication online or in a future issue of *The Cornerstone*.

Isn't It Time? Declare Your Support.

[Sign up today](#) to be a part of the Value-Driven Health Care movement.



"Every American should have access to a full range of information about the quality and cost of their health care options."

Secretary Michael O. Leavitt