



PARTNERSHIP FOR PATIENTS

BETTER CARE, LOWER COSTS

“Working closely with hospitals, doctors, nurses, patients, families and employers, we will support efforts to help keep patients safe, improve care, and reduce costs. Working together, we can help eliminate preventable harm to patients.”

- U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius

Created in response to the Affordable Care Act signed by President Obama on March 23, 2010, the **Partnership for Patients** is a public-private effort to improve the quality, safety and affordability of health care for all Americans. Every day, countless Americans receive care that is as good or better than any in the world. But far too often, for far too many patients, we fall short of that high standard.

The Challenge:



1 in 3 patients admitted suffers from a medical error or adverse event in the hospital.



1 in 7 Medicare patients is harmed in the course of care, on average, at an estimated cost of \$4.4 billion annually.

Our vision is a health system that lets no patient fall through the cracks – where no patient gets a new infection in the hospital, no patient goes home from the hospital without proper follow-up care, and doctors, nurses, patients and families have the information they need to make the right choices.

Goals that Save Lives, Reduce Harm, and Lower Costs

The Partnership’s two major goals are:

- *Safer health care for you and your loved ones:* We will reduce preventable injuries that happen in hospitals by 40 percent over three years, preventing 1.8 million injuries and saving 60,000 lives.
- *Better coordination between your doctors, nurses, specialists, labs, and others and especially during discharge from hospital to home:* We will improve care transitions such that hospital readmissions are reduced by 20 percent over three years, saving more than 1.6 million patients from complications that force them to return to the hospital.



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<http://www.healthcare.gov/center/programs/partnership>

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Reaching these ambitious goals will save up to \$35 billion across our health care system over three years, including up to \$10 billion for Medicare. Over ten years, the reduction in Medicare costs could be as high as \$50 billion.

Real Investments for Real Results

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will invest up to \$1 billion in new funding from the Affordable Care Act towards these goals. We are also providing hospitals and physicians with an unprecedented range of resources about what other health care providers are doing to improve patient safety.

- The recently formed the CMS Innovation Center will invest over \$500 million to test models of safer care delivery and promote implementation of best practices in patient safety.
- The new Community-based Care Transition Program at the CMS Innovation Center will provide \$500 million in funding to support hospitals and community based organizations in helping Medicare beneficiaries at high risk of readmission to the hospital safely transition from the hospital to other care settings.

A Real Partnership for You

Beyond reducing harm in hospitals, the Partnership for Patients is an important test of what can occur when the nation acts as one to address a major national health problem. Achieving the goals of the Partnership for Patients will require the combined effort of many key stakeholders within the health care system – from physicians, nurses, hospitals, health plans, employers and unions, patients and their advocates, as well as the Federal and State governments. Thousands of organizations across the nation have already pledged to join with Medicare in a shared effort to save thousands of lives, stop millions of injuries and take important steps toward a more dependable and affordable health care system. They include:

Consumer and patient organizations:

Patients and families are the most affected by harm from preventable health care complications. Organizations representing patients' interests are committed to raising public awareness and developing information, tools and resources to help patients and families effectively engage with their providers in these activities.

Hospitals and organizations representing physicians and nurses:

These health care professionals are committed to improving care processes and systems, and improving communication and coordination, to dramatically improve the outcome of the care they provide to their patients.

Medicare: As the single largest purchaser of health care in America, Medicare will dedicate up to \$1 billion from the Affordable Care Act to provide support to physicians, nurses and other clinicians working in and out of hospitals to make patient care safer and to support effective transitions of patients from hospitals to other settings. These tools and supports will be tailored to meet the needs of different settings and clinicians. Also, agencies across HHS will align their safety and quality initiatives behind the Partnership.

Employers, unions, health plans and States:

Employers, unions, health plans and States can provide the incentives and support that will enable clinicians and hospital to deliver high-quality health care to their patients, with minimal burdens.



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