



FOUNDATION FOR  
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Attention Business Editors**

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### **Foundation for Healthy Communities to Join National “Partnership for Patients”**

**CONCORD** – The Foundation for Healthy Communities has been selected as one of 26 organizations to take part in “Partnership for Patients,” a \$500 million national program designed to help hospitals reduce preventable injuries and complications from healthcare acquired conditions.

Seventeen New Hampshire hospitals have already agreed to join the Foundation’s efforts in this venture, which is being funded by the American Hospital Association’s Health Research and Educational Trust through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Affordable Care Act.

“This program means the Foundation for Healthy Communities will be able to make resources available to hospitals in the state to make improvements in 10 specific categories to prevent harm to patients,” said Anne Diefendorf, Associate Executive Director/Vice President for Quality & Patient Safety with the FHC.

“The whole reason this money is being invested is in the hope of saving billions of dollars in the years to come by preventing healthcare associated conditions that keep people in the hospital, such as blood stream infections and complications from falls,” she added, “and we believe that taking part in this initiative will help New Hampshire move closer to the goal of eliminating patient harm by 2015.”

According to program guidelines, participating agencies are required to conduct intensive training programs to teach and support hospitals in making patient care safer, and to provide technical assistance to help hospitals achieve quality measurement goals.

“At some point in our lives, many of us are going to need hospital care, and we need to be confident that no matter where we live, we’re going to get the best care in the world,” said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius when announcing the grants. “The Partnership for Patients is helping the nation’s finest health systems share their knowledge and resources to make sure every hospital knows how to provide all of its patients with the highest quality care.”

The Foundation for Healthy Communities, a subsidiary of the New Hampshire Hospital Association, is a non-profit partnership involving hospitals, physicians, health plans, home care agencies and other organizations working to improve health in our state. The Foundation’s mission is to improve health and health care delivery in New Hampshire. Learn more at [www.healthyNH.com](http://www.healthyNH.com).

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