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Michigan Department of Community Health

Michigan Education Special Services Association

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Michigan Nurses Association

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Michigan Pharmacists Association

Michigan State Medical Society

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News release on Michigan Health and Safety Coalition

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Release: Immediate

Michigan Hospital Information Available on Web Site *Michigan Health and Safety Coalition Releases its Annual Michigan Hospital Survey Results*

DETROIT, Feb. 12, 2004 -- For the second year in a row, information on the status of Michigan hospitals for seven major medical conditions and for intensive care units is available online at www.mihealthandsafety.org.

The Michigan Health and Safety Coalition sponsors the Web site. The coalition is a group of 15 organizations that includes health plans and major employers as well as hospital, physician, consumer and labor organizations in the state. Its mission is to help improve health care quality and patient safety across all care settings.

The coalition is posting the results of its annual hospital survey, which it sponsors to encourage hospitals to measure themselves against established benchmarks. The information includes the number of times seven selected major surgeries or treatments were performed at hospitals and the extent to which each hospital met guidelines established by the coalition. Reports are also sent to hospitals to compare their performance with combined peer hospital and regional hospital data.

"I really commend the hospitals for their support of the survey and consumer report and for their commitment to improving care," said Tom Simmer, MD, chair of the coalition and vice president of Medical Affairs and chief medical officer for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. "We've had an enormous amount of support from hospitals, doctors, nurses and other providers in using the survey information to delve even deeper into initiatives to increase patient safety. This past year we've made a lot of progress on ICU guidelines."

The extensive hospital survey, which was based on guidelines developed in 2001 by the coalition, was voluntarily completed by 102 Michigan hospitals in urban, suburban and rural areas. This year's survey included questions from The Leapfrog Group, a national health care quality and safety initiative. Results from The Leapfrog Group are posted separately on its Web site at www.leapfroggroup.org.

One area studied was how many hospitals met or exceeded minimum volume coalition guidelines for the number of times certain procedures were performed. The results were:

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair (51% of hospitals met volume guidelines)
- Removal of plaque from the carotid artery (carotid endarterectomy surgery) (65%)
- Removal of part of the esophagus due to cancer (esophagectomy for cancer) (19%)
- Care of infants with certain birth defects (congenital anomalies) in neonatal intensive care units (55%)
- Care for low birth-weight infants in neonatal intensive care units (55%)
- Open-heart surgery (including coronary artery bypass graft surgery) (77%)
- Heart procedures or treatments that are performed using a catheter inserted through the skin, including angioplasty (percutaneous coronary interventions) (86%)

"We believe by working collaboratively with the Michigan Health and Safety Coalition, we have an opportunity to promote health care quality and patient safety," said Janice Whitehouse, General Motors director of community initiatives. "This annual survey is another avenue for GM enrollees to directly access hospital comparisons for seven medical conditions and intensive care units, and we are encouraged by the degree to which this survey has been a success in getting important information to consumers."

To reach the full survey report, go to the coalition's home page, www.mihealthandsafety.org, and click the 2003 Consumer Report on the left-hand side of the home page.

In addition to producing the consumer report, the coalition uses the survey results to identify projects to improve the safety of care for patients. For example, last year's survey results helped in the formation of a panel of experts who have made recommendations to improve care in intensive care units. One of the panel's recommendations, an informational toolkit for hospitals aimed at improving safety in Intensive Care Units, will be released soon to hospitals across the state.

The coalition also sponsors an annual conference about patient safety. This year's event will be held April 14-15 at the Ford Motor Company Conference & Event Center in Dearborn.

Michigan Health and Safety Coalition members include:

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- Michigan Association of Health Plans
- Michigan Consumer Health Care Coalition
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