



For Immediate Release

**Contact: Helen Stojic (BCBSM)
(313) 225-8113
Sherry Mirasola (MHA)
(517) 323-3443**

Michigan Hospital Survey Another Step Toward Enhanced Patient Safety

Blue Cross Blue Shield
of Michigan

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Ford Motor Company

General Motors Corporation

International Union, UAW

Michigan Association
of Health Plans

Michigan Department of
Community Health

Michigan Education Special
Services Association

Michigan Health &
Hospital Association

Michigan Nurses Association

Michigan Osteopathic
Association

Michigan Peer Review
Organization

Michigan Pharmacists
Association

Michigan State Medical
Society

27000 W. Eleven Mile Rd.
Mail Code: B713
Southfield, MI 48034
Phone: 248.448.6266
Fax: 248.448.0058
E-mail: dvalade@bcbsm.com
www.mihealthandsafety.org

DETROIT – Michigan hospitals are teaming with the Michigan Health and Safety Coalition (MH&SC) to explore new ways to enhance the quality of health care in the state. The MH&SC is a voluntary group comprised of representatives from health care plans, health care providers and employer and union groups dedicated to collaborating on issues of patient safety and health care quality.

The MH&SC developed the Hospital Referral Guidelines as its first initiative to support continuous improvement in the safety and quality of health care in Michigan. The topic areas for the guidelines are those that have been of primary interest to employer groups and Michigan health plans.

The guidelines focus on eight areas of care that include:

- Intensive Care Unit physician staffing
- Care for low birthweight infants in Neonatal Intensive Care Units
- Care for infants with congenital anomalies in Neonatal Intensive Care Units
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair
- Carotid endarterectomy surgery (removal of plaque from the carotid artery)
- Esophagectomy for cancer (removal of part of the esophagus due to cancer)
- Open heart procedures
- Percutaneous coronary interventions (heart procedures or treatments that are performed through the skin such as angioplasty)

This month, Michigan hospitals will begin completing the MH&SC online survey that will provide information about where hospital practices are today compared to the guidelines. Hospitals have also participated in educational sessions to help them gain a clear understanding of the guidelines and survey and how their participation in the survey will support patient safety efforts.

In noting the voluntary role of hospitals in the MH&SC endeavor, MHA President Spencer Johnson said, "Michigan hospitals are guided by a culture that values compassionate caring, open communication, clinical competence and a passion for improving patient outcomes."

The results of the survey will help the MH&SC better understand the potential impacts of the guidelines on Michigan hospitals. When the survey is complete, providers will work with the coalition to help develop implementation approaches that balance the issues of cost, quality and access to care. In addition, results of the survey will be shared with the public, hospitals, health plans, and the Leapfrog Group, a national purchaser coalition that is interested in improving patient safety and has implemented guidelines for these areas of care in other regions of the country.

"The survey is the first of its kind in Michigan," said MH&SC Chair and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Senior Vice President of Health Care Products and Provider Services, Marianne Udow. "We'll have a statewide knowledge base that will allow us and our partners to plan and build an improvement strategy for patient safety."

To access the full text of the guidelines, log on to the coalition's Web site at www.mihealthandsafety.org.

###