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Michigan Consumer Health Care Coalition

Michigan Department of Community Health

Michigan Education Special Services Association

Michigan Health & Hospital Association

Michigan Nurses Association

Michigan Osteopathic Association

MPRO

Michigan Pharmacists Association

Michigan State Medical Society

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News release on Michigan Health and Safety Coalition

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State Commission on Patient Safety Will Hold Public Hearing in Southfield Nov. 17

Commission seeking input on how to make health care safer

DETROIT, Nov. 10, 2004—The State Commission on Patient Safety will hold a public hearing Wednesday, Nov. 17 in Southfield, seeking ideas and recommendations related to the practice of patient safety and the reduction of health care errors.

The Southfield hearing will be held from 1 to 9 p.m. in Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's Metro Auditorium, Tower 200, 27000 W. 11 Mile Road.

The commission was created by Public Act 119 of 2004 which authorized the governor to designate an existing organization to act as this body. Governor Granholm asked the Michigan Health and Safety Coalition to serve as the commission, and the coalition accepted.

The MH&SC is a statewide group of 15 organizations that includes health plans, major employers, professional associations and hospital, physician, consumer and labor organizations. Its mission is to help improve health care quality and patient safety across all care settings.

The Southfield hearing will seek input from the public, health care organizations and other groups interested in patient safety. It is the second of three scheduled public hearings, with others slated for Nov. 15 in Lansing and Nov. 30 in Traverse City.

“At these hearings the commission is seeking recommendations on how we can develop systematic approaches to identifying and learning from health care errors, with a focus on continuous improvement,” said Tom Simmer, M.D., chair of the MH&SC and senior vice president and chief medical officer for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

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Beverley McDonald, chair of the Michigan Consumer Health Care Coalition, said “These hearings and the commission’s deliberations that will follow them are of major importance to health care consumers as partners in improving safety and avoiding adverse events in the delivery of care.”

In addition to considering testimony received at the public hearings, the commission will review information on other patient safety initiatives. This review would extend to a study of the causes of health care errors occurring in the continuum of care, including health facilities and in private practices.

Within one year, the commission will issue a final report containing its findings and recommendations on patient safety. The Michigan Department of Community Health will assist the commission with the final report as well as this month’s three public hearings.

The Michigan Health and Safety Coalition was formed in 2000. Members include:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- DaimlerChrysler Corporation
- Ford Motor Company
- General Motors Corporation
- International Union, UAW
- Michigan Association of Health Plans
- Michigan Consumer Health Care Coalition
- Michigan Department of Community Health
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