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Michigan Education Special Services Association

Michigan Health & Hospital Association

Michigan Nurses Association

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Michigan Pharmacists Association

Michigan State Medical Society

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State Commission on Patient Safety Will Hold Public Meeting April 28 in New Hudson

Commission will describe process in compiling report for governor

DETROIT, April 21, 2005—The State Commission on Patient Safety will hold a public meeting on Thursday, April 28 to discuss its process for compiling a report to the governor on how to increase patient safety and reduce health care errors.

The meeting will be held from 11 a.m. to noon at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan's Lyon Meadows facility, 53200 Grand River Avenue in New Hudson. A second public meeting will be held Thursday, June 30 at the same time and place to review the commission's preliminary recommendations to the governor.

The State Commission on Patient Safety 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.

The coalition is a group of 15 Michigan organizations that includes health plans, major employers, health 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 coalition agreed to serve as the commission, and held three public hearings last November in Lansing, Southfield and Traverse City seeking ideas and recommendations on how to improve patient safety.

At the April 28 meeting, the commission will describe the process used to obtain and review public testimony, and discuss how the commission will be examining the compiled recommendations and deciding what to include in its report to the governor.

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“The commission is pleased to report our progress to the public,” said Tom Simmer, M.D., coalition chair and senior vice president and chief medical officer for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. “We have spent the last few months reading and analyzing the testimony provided at the public hearings and are beginning the process of developing consensus recommendations. Many good suggestions for safety improvement were received, and our job is to compile them into a meaningful report to the governor.”

Beverley McDonald, chair of the Michigan Consumer Health Care Coalition and chair of the commission review panel, added “We are hopeful that the report and recommendations will clearly define the safety issues and point the state’s stakeholders in the right direction to resolving the most critical of them. The entire process is a major step forward.”

In addition to the testimony received at the public hearings, the commission also has been reviewing information on other patient safety initiatives. The review extends to a study of the causes of health care errors occurring in the continuum of care, including health facilities and in private practices.

The commission will issue a final report containing its findings and recommendations on patient safety to the governor by November of this year. The Michigan Department of Community Health is assisting the commission with the report.

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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