

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2008

For more information, contact:

Jennifer Trotter, Communications Manager
(505) 998-9898

Impacting Health Care in New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM – The New Mexico Medical Review Association (NMMRA), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for New Mexico, recently published a summary document of work accomplished under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) during the Eighth Statement of Work (8SOW). *New Mexico Health Care Providers and NMMRA Working Together to Improve the Quality of Care* highlights NMMRA's work with nursing homes, home health agencies, hospitals, physician offices and various health care stakeholders aimed at improving the quality of health care in the state. The report can be accessed at www.nmmra.org/resources/download.php?id=1304.

Here are some of the statistics highlighted in the report:

- **Hospitals** in New Mexico that participated with NMMRA in the Surgical Care Improvement Project to reduce surgical site infections, venous thromboembolisms and cardiac complications of surgery were able to achieve a 42 percent improvement in their surgical care practices.
- A total of 17 **physician practices**, comprised of 59 New Mexico providers, enrolled in the Doctor's Office Quality – Information Technology (DOQ-IT) project to implement electronic health records in an effort to improve the quality of care they provide their patients and to facilitate better management of care for patients with chronic conditions such as diabetes, coronary artery disease, heart failure and hypertension.
- New Mexico **nursing homes** that worked intensively with NMMRA reduced the use of physical restraints by nearly 31 percent and the number of residents experiencing moderate to severe pain by 25 percent.
- **Home health agencies** in the state improved more than nationally on eight quality-of-care measures, including 10-percent improvement on a measure related to pain that interferes with patient activity.
- From November 2005 to December 2007, NMMRA helpline staff processed 1,518 helpline calls and 1,208 medical record reviews in an effort to protect the state's **Medicare beneficiaries** and ensure beneficiary care meets professionally recognized standards.
- The New Mexico net **payment error rate**—which is calculated by subtracting underpayments from overpayments for inpatient hospital admissions—declined from 5.8 in 2005 to 3.8 in 2007.

NMMRA is an Albuquerque-based, non-profit, physician-sponsored organization. Serving as a resource to the state's health care community and to Medicare beneficiaries, NMMRA seeks to fulfill its mission to facilitate demonstrable and continuous improvement in the quality of health care and achieve its vision to be a premier and innovative leader in improving health care. NMMRA has served continuously as the state's only federally contracted Medicare QIO since 1984. NMMRA also serves as the state's Medicaid External Quality Review Organization.

—30—

This material was prepared by NMMRA, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 8SOW-NM-CORP-08-10