Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why should I join the Partnership for Patients?
A. Under the Affordable Care Act and the 2009 stimulus law, hospitals have approximately 6 percent of their reimbursement at risk for failure to achieve quality goals such as reduced readmissions, harm prevention and adherence to evidence-based best practices. This program will help hospitals develop the processes, understand the measures and share knowledge to be best prepared for the time when the reimbursement penalties take effect. Hospitals that do not participate in this program or a similar program, like QUEST, will fall further behind as this program will raise the bar for all hospitals. This will increase the likelihood of payment penalties. And we anticipate that these sorts of penalties will extend to Medicaid and private payors over time.

Q. Why should I work with Premier and SCHA under this hospital engagement contract?
A. The Partnership for Patients approach to improving performance is completely in line with the collaborative methodology applied by both Premier and SCHA. Both organizations have extensive experience in leading collaborative efforts that yield systematic health care quality improvements, as demonstrated by our effectiveness and results over the course of efforts like the Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration (HQID) project, QUEST, the Perinatal Safety Initiative, Stop BSI, Safe Surgery 2015: South Carolina, South Carolina Mission: Lifeline and others.

Q. Is there any cost for a hospital to participate?
A. No. The contractual relationship exists between the Innovation Center and the Hospital Engagement Contractor – assumed to be Premier with SCHA as a subcontractor for SCHA member hospitals.

Q. What are my obligations if I sign the letter of intent to work with Premier and SCHA in this initiative?
A. The letter of intent is being used by Premier and SCHA to estimate the cohort that will be served under the terms of the contract. The letter of intent is non-binding and you have no obligations based on it.

Q. Can I sign letters of intent for more than one Hospital Engagement Contractor (HEC)?
A. Yes, the letter of intent is non-binding. However, in general a hospital can only work with one HEC in the program. Once HECs are selected; hospitals will have to choose their partner in this work.

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Q. If Premier and SCHA are the most logical choice for this work, why wouldn’t all 2500 Premier alliance members join with them in this work?
A. The Innovation Center is looking to spread the funding and drive as much creativity and innovation as possible. We are exploring a variety of approaches to leverage the expertise of Premier, SCHA and other partners while utilizing regional or affinity groups like South Carolina to bring in new ideas.

Q. What do you need from hospitals at this point?
A. A very simple non-binding letter of intent is all that is needed at this point. Simply send your letter of intent to Mary Stargel, mstargel@scha.org. More information will be shared as we learn more from The Innovation Center.