



FOUNDATION FOR  
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

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## **New Hampshire hospitals report quality information online**

CONCORD - Information about the quality of care in New Hampshire's hospitals is only a click away. Starting today, [www.NHQualityCare.org](http://www.NHQualityCare.org) gives consumers reliable, honest data about treatments for heart attacks, heart failure and pneumonia, the most common and costly causes of hospitalization. The new Web site also is offering information related to preventing surgical infections.

The state's 26 acute care hospitals voluntarily report their data to be posted by NHQualityCare, which tells consumers how often hospitals provide the recommended care to adults for the three medical conditions and surgical infection prevention. The measures described as recommended care are scientifically proven to improve results for patients who receive them. Some of those measures include whether a heart attack patient was given aspirin upon arrival at the hospital, if a blood test was taken on a patient with pneumonia, or if a patient received antibiotics before undergoing surgery.

The Foundation for Healthy Communities initiated the development of NHQualityCare in partnership with the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation, the state's Quality Improvement Organization, which analyzes and validates all of the data submitted by the hospitals. While national resources offer some of the same information, NHQualityCare standardizes how the data is collected, reported, and now, published for the first time in New Hampshire.

"Nationally, there is a growing interest in pushing hospitals to be publicly accountable for the care they provide," said Mike Green, chairman of the board of the Foundation for Healthy Communities and CEO of Concord Hospital. "NHQualityCare allows New Hampshire to take a proactive step forward by making publicly available health care information meaningful and relevant to people in our state."

It's a move that caught the attention of Governor John Lynch when few other states are taking the same initiative.

"We know that New Hampshire hospitals are committed to providing high quality care to every

- more -

patient," said Governor Lynch. "The launch of NHQualityCare demonstrates that they also place a high priority on offering information that will help people become more informed consumers of health care."

The new Web site also is endorsed by the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire.

"NHQualityCare will give New Hampshire businesses access to information they need to help them and their employees make good health care decisions," said Jim Roche, President and CEO of the BIA. "Information is critical to improving the quality of care and also to changing the way employers and consumers think about and use the health care system."

NHQualityCare provides 12 months' worth of data at a time, updating it every quarter to show the most recently reported 12 months. Previous data will be archived and still accessible by Web site visitors. The site's developers caution that the tool is one source of information and is not intended to rank hospitals.

"A very important function of NHQualityCare is to educate the public on the type of care patients should expect from their providers and why those treatments are important," said Stephanie Wolf-Rosenblum, MD, Vice President of Medical Staff Affairs at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center in Nashua and a member of the committee which helped design NHQualityCare.

Accordingly, NHQualityCare is an opportunity to enhance the communication between patients and providers.

"The information should prompt people to ask more questions about the quality and safety of their care and discuss with their providers what's right for them," Dr. Wolf-Rosenblum said.

The hospitals themselves will benefit from the data reports as well.

"Hospitals in New Hampshire have always evaluated what they do and used that information to continually improve their care," said Green. "NHQualityCare offers another way for hospitals to see how they're doing and learn best practices from one another. Ultimately, that will raise the level of health care quality statewide."

The Foundation for Healthy Communities is a nonprofit corporation that exists to improve health and health care in New Hampshire. The Foundation's partnerships include hospitals, health plans, clinicians, home care agencies, public policy leaders, and other health and social service organizations. Learn more about the Foundation at [www.healthyNH.com](http://www.healthyNH.com).

Incorporated in 1972, the purpose of Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation is to encourage and promote improvement in health care. NHCQF provides educational materials and tools for quality improvement projects, and conducts reviews to ensure high quality of care for beneficiaries and to protect the Medicare Trust Fund. Visit [www.nhcqf.org](http://www.nhcqf.org) for more information.

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