

HTNYS IS YOUR TRUSTED EDUCATION PARTNER

April 2011

To successfully implement the health care system reform initiatives in the new federal health reform law and the recently passed New York State budget, trustees must position their organizations strategically for the changes and challenges that lie ahead. To accomplish this, trustees need to understand what these reform initiatives mean for their organizations and communities.



Healthcare Trustees of New York State (HTNYS) is a valuable resource to help trustees stay current on these and many other important health care issues. HTNYS continues to expand the availability of timely education on important issues, including the following new offerings:

- **MEDICARE FUNDAMENTALS FOR TRUSTEES** is a four-part DVD series designed to help trustees understand the complex financial structure within which hospitals operate. *Medicare Fundamentals* contains the following four programs: *The Medicare Program: History, Policy, Issues*; *Patient Data and Billing*; *How the Medicare Program Pays for Inpatient Care*; and *How the Medicare Program Pays for Hospital Outpatient Services and Special Rural Providers*.
- **DISCUSSION OF KEY FEDERAL QUALITY ISSUES** is a 20-minute program available for download and on DVD, designed to update trustees on the Medicare Inpatient Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) program that will take effect in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013, and the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) measures used in the VBP program.

For additional information on both program offerings, visit www.htnys.org/store.

Sneak Peek at HTNYS' 2011 Annual Conference

The 2011 HTNYS Annual Conference, to be held **September 16-18** at The Sagamore in Bolton Landing, will feature many speakers and topics on key emerging health care issues. General session speakers include health policy journalist Susan Dentzer, futurist Jack Uldrich, governance expert Connie Curran, quality guru Joe Bujak, M.D., and former *National Geographic* photographer Steve Uzzel. The Conference will also feature a panel of New York State providers who have developed medical homes. Concurrent sessions will address topics such as accountable care organizations, meaningful use of health information technology, compliance with government requirements, and governance issues. Conference registration will begin July 20.

Health Care Reform Resources Online

HTNYS continues to enhance its health care reform Web page (www.htnys.org/reform). I encourage you to review the valuable health reform resources available there.

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Regional Trustee Programs

On May 11, HTNYS and Western New York Healthcare Association will host a trustee program featuring Richard Umbdenstock, President of the American Hospital Association. The complimentary program will be held at Salvatore's Italian Gardens in Depew, near the Buffalo Airport, and begins at 3 p.m. To register for this event and to learn more about any of our programs, please visit www.htnys.org.



Sue Ellen Wagner
Executive Director

FEDERAL UPDATE

In early April, the House Republican leadership under House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) released a budget resolution for FFY 2012 that would reduce the federal deficit by \$5.8 trillion over ten years, one third of the savings from cuts to health spending. The budget resolution contains limited policy details, leaving it up to committees to determine how to achieve budget targets. The Ryan budget includes spending caps, the most significant of which would make across-the-board cuts to programs like Medicare and Medicaid. For any proposals to become law, the Democratic-led Senate would also need to pass the resolution and the President must sign it into law.

In the U.S. Senate, a small bipartisan group of senators called the "Gang of Six" continues to craft a comprehensive FFY 2012 deficit reduction package. The package is based largely on the recommendations of the President's Fiscal Commission, whose proposals included nearly \$400 billion in Medicare and Medicaid cuts, the largest of which is a \$60 billion cut to Medicare Graduate Medical Education funding.

HTNYS is working with HANYS to urge all members of the New York State Congressional Delegation to protect New York's hospitals and health systems from any reductions through the remainder of the FFY 2011 budget and in the FFY 2012 debate.

Is Your Hospital Doing a Good Job of Quality Oversight?

As never before, boards are being held to account for quality and safety, especially when things go wrong.

Individual board members have a responsibility to learn how to do this job: to see the right information, ask the right questions, and drive results.

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