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National Reports Reveal Rhode Island as a Top Performer in Health Care Quality

Cranston, RI – Rhode Island was among the top performers in the nation in two recently released national reports that ranked states according to the quality of care provided to patients. The reports highlight hospitals' ongoing commitment to providing the best quality health care.

The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released data that showed Rhode Island is among the nation's leaders in health care quality. AHRQ's State Snapshots web tool is based on data drawn from more than 30 sources, including government surveys, health care facilities and health care organizations, and covers multiple years. Rhode Island ranked fifth in the nation for the overall health care quality score based on 129 measures used to evaluate health care performance. The state was a strong performer, falling within the 75th percentile, for measures pertaining to hospital care.

Rhode Island also performed well in a report released by the Commonwealth Fund that assessed how well the health system is performing across key indicators of health care outcomes, quality, access, efficiency and equity. The Ocean State ranked sixth in the nation for performance across all indicators and led the nation for quality of care. In addition, hospitals in Rhode Island were first in the nation for providing recommended care to heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia patients.

The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation that aims to promote a high performing health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society's most vulnerable. The state scorecard included 32 indicators grouped into five dimensions of performance – access, quality, avoidable hospital use and costs, equity and health lives.

“Measuring and improving clinical performance has long been a top priority for hospitals in Rhode Island,” said Edward J. Quinlan, president of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island. “When compared to other states Rhode Island clearly demonstrates that is among the best of the best. These reports show, once again, that statewide efforts to improve clinical care in Rhode Island are effective.”

“Hospitals are always seeking new ways to ensure the best quality care for all Rhode Islanders,” said Jean Marie Rocha, MPH, RN, vice president of clinical affairs at the Hospital Association of Rhode Island. “Hospital leaders, trustees, physicians, nurses and others work every day to improve care. The HARI board of trustees recently demonstrated hospitals' ongoing commitment by unanimously approving the extension of the Rhode Island ICU Collaborative, an initiative aimed at improving care of intensive care unit patients. This is another in a long line of examples of hospitals' unwavering dedication to patients”

AHRQ's annual *State Snapshots* may be accessed at <http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov>. *Aiming Higher: Results from a State Scorecard on Health System Performance* by the Commonwealth Fund may be viewed at www.cmwf.org.

Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide trade organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to address issues threatening access to health care including increasing health costs, rising medical liability premiums and decreasing reimbursement. Together we work to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high quality health care.