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Healthcare Quality Watch

March/April 2019

National Policy Expert to Address IPRO Annual Meeting

Leavitt Partners Chief Executive Officer Andrew Croshaw will be a featured speaker at IPRO's 35th Annual Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, June 6, at the Garden City Hotel in Garden City, New York. Croshaw joined the Salt Lake City-based firm at its inception in 2009—the firm's founder is former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Mike Leavitt. A nationally-recognized expert on connectivity, transparency and value in healthcare, Croshaw was previously a senior executive at Novartis Pharmaceuticals and Eli Lilly. IPRO's Annual Meeting will also include a presentation of the 2019 Quality Awards, which are given each year to physician, community and provider organizations, as well as patient advocates that have distinguished themselves with important accomplishments in quality improvement in New York State. For registration information, visit the IPRO website at www.ipro.org

IPRO Examines Opioid Epidemic

Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organizations like IPRO have been given a major role in federal efforts to address the nation's opioid epidemic. An estimated 42,000 Americans were killed by opioids in 2016 with 40% of all opioid deaths involving prescription opioids. Under comprehensive legislation passed last fall—the REACH OUT ACT of 2018—QIN-QIOs have been tasked with identifying and working with practitioners who are opioid prescribing "high-outliers." IPRO and partner organizations in South Carolina and the District of Columbia are already engaged in a two-year effort to support increases in naloxone prescriptions and decreases in opioid prescribing, with the goal of decreasing opioid-related visits to hospital emergency rooms. IPRO is also working with the University Of Buffalo School Of Pharmacy to deliver accredited continuing



education programs to pharmacists. A new CMS factsheet indicates that only 20% of individuals with opioid use disorder actually receive treatment. Access the *CMS Roadmap to Address the Opioid Epidemic* at www.cms.gov.

Feds Revising Hospital Performance Data Methodology

Stakeholders had until March 29 to offer written comments to the federal government regarding revisions to the current methodology for public reporting of comparative hospital performance data. The call for comment follows a decision by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to postpone a release of hospital performance information, which was scheduled for last summer. The delay will permit CMS to review proposed revisions to the 5-star rating methodology used to evaluate more than 4,000 acute-care hospitals across the U.S. The Hospital Compare database includes a universe of 57 measures that can be included in a data release. Among the topics CMS wants to address are potential changes to measure groupings, measure weighting, larger-than-expected shifts in performance ratings, hospital peer groupings and clustering. CMS also is seeking comment on whether public reporting should address a hospital's year-to-year performance improvement as well as the possibility of generating customized ratings based on a user's own performance reporting preferences. Comments should be sent to the Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation (cmsstarratings@yale.edu). Additional methodological information is available at qualitynet.org.



Join us for the IPRO 35th Annual Meeting and Quality Awards Presentation

Social Determinants of Health and
their Impact on Communities

Featured Speaker:

Andrew Croshaw,
CEO of Leavitt Partners

Thursday, June 6, 2019

12: 30 pm – 3:00 PM

Complimentary Buffet Luncheon

Garden City Hotel

Garden City, NY

Convenient to the Long Island Rail Road
(Garden City Station on the Hempstead Branch)

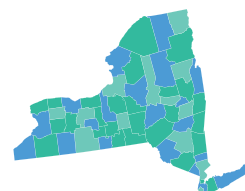
Limited seating -- Reserve your spot now

For more information and to register, please visit
<https://ipro.org/about/annual-meeting>



NY State Addressing Maternal Mortality Disparities

New York State will create a Maternal Mortality Review Board and develop racial bias training and education programs for hospitals, based on a series of recommendations provided by a State Task Force to Governor Andrew Cuomo on March 12. The report finds that New York ranks 30th in the nation in maternal mortality, with an increase in deaths per 100,000 live births from 15.4 deaths in 2001-2003 to 19.6 deaths during 2014-2016. The report notes that, nationwide, the mortality rate more than doubled during this time frame. The Task Force finds "clear racial disparities" in maternal mortality, noting that two-thirds of all prenatal related deaths in New York during 2012-2014 involved cesarean section deliveries. Recommendations include developing a comprehensive data warehouse on perinatal outcomes; providing equitable reimbursement for midwives; a loan-forgiveness program to encourage providers in training to work in women's health; and convening an expert panel on optimizing postpartum care across New York. The report from the New York State Taskforce on Maternal Mortality and Disparate Racial Outcomes is available at www.health.ny.gov/docs/maternal_mortality_report.pdf.



The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence

Serving South Carolina



IPRO Partner Addresses Infections in LTC Settings

IPRO's Medicare Quality Improvement subcontractor, The Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence (CCME), was selected for a poster presentation at the annual conference of The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, held in Atlanta in early March. The presentation focused on nutritional pathway educational tools developed to raise awareness about care and treatment of *clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI) colitis in post-acute and long-term care settings. The tools address gaps in care and treatment of CDI patients by focusing on antibiotic stewardship and restoration of intestinal health, with the goal of reducing recovery time and recurrence. For more information, visit the Atlantic Quality Innovation Network's website at <https://atlanticquality.org>.

IPRO is a non-profit organization that works with government agencies, providers and consumers to implement innovative programs that bring policy ideas to life. For over 30 years we've made creative use of clinical expertise, emerging technology and data solutions to make the healthcare system work better.



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