



Quest Physician Update

September 2009



Transforming Healthcare-Together.

Gail Amundson, MD, FACP
CEO, Quality Quest for Health of Illinois

Dear Colleagues,

There is a lot going on at Quality Quest for Health of Illinois. We have launched two exciting new initiatives and the Patient Registry and High Technology Diagnostic Imaging teams are making steady progress.

Our website is new and improved. We developed an easy to use Preventive Care Calculator. Recommendations are based on the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) evidence-based Preventive Care guideline. In 2007, the Quality Quest Evidence-Based Care Standards team identified ICSI guidelines as the best in the country. Check out the calculator and other features at www.qualityquest.org. We will be adding more content each week. Any and all feedback is appreciated.

Planning for Modernizing Health Information Exchange in Illinois is in full swing. Many people are volunteering their time to help us update our paper-based health information exchange processes to more modern and efficient electronic processes. Everyone is looking forward to next year when 21st century electronic information availability starts to become a reality.

A demonstration of the OSF diabetes and CAD patient registry impressed the Quest Patient Registry Team. The team is hard at work testing various registry options in local practices. The team will be making final recommendations later this fall intended to accelerate practices' use of patient registries to improve care.

Quest's High Technology Diagnostic Imaging Team has confirmed with local data that the opportunity to improve the safety and appropriateness of imaging in our region is consistent with the national opportunity. The team is evaluating the merits of the commercial Nuance & Medicalis decision support products. Both products were developed in association with Harvard University and they are both attractive alternatives to the trend of mandating practice participation in health plan sponsored radiology benefit management programs.

The Quest Pharmacy Steering Committee has recommended Quest take the lead in organizing a Peoria effort targeted at safe medication disposal. Congratulations to Tazewell County for the well-deserved recognition of their safe drug disposal program.

Upcoming Program

"An Ounce of Prevention . . . Is A Ton of Work," a medical conference examining how to improve preventive care services in central Illinois, will be held on Wednesday, September 30 from 8 – 11:30 a.m. at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in East Peoria. Breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m. This conference is geared to healthcare professionals – there is no charge to attend. Pre-registration is required. Visit www.qualityquest.org to register on-line or call 309-282-8820 for more information.

Thank you for all you do to improve patient care every day.

Respectfully,

Gail M. Amundson, MD, FACP