



# Quest Physician Update

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## Transforming Healthcare-Together.

Dear Colleagues,

Quest reached an important milestone in January 2009. We have officially changed our name to Quality Quest for Health of Illinois, foreshadowing our intention to grow Quest beyond our tri-county area in 2009. Our new Board of Directors, comprised of dynamic physician, hospital, consumer, employer and health plan leaders, are committed to working together to make our communities healthier and our healthcare better.

Joining me on the Board of Directors are Dr. Terry Baldwin, Illinois Gastroenterology Institute; Paul Brand, Employer's Coalition on Health; Michael Bryant, Methodist Medical Center of Illinois; Paul Gaeto, Caterpillar Inc; Dr. Jack Gilligan; Dr. Steve Goldman, Caterpillar Inc.; Dr. Dave Gorenz, OSF Healthcare System; Dr. David Johnson, Internist; Joan Krupa; Dan Kueter, United Healthcare of Iowa and Central Illinois; Paul Macek, Proctor Hospital; Jim McConoughey, The Heartland Partnership; Randall Moon, ADM; Dr. Sara Rusch, U of I College of Medicine at Peoria; Michael Stephan, Heart of Illinois United Way; and Dr. Ralph Velazquez, OSF Healthcare System.

There will be two Quest teams this year. The 2008 Preventive Care, Reducing Cardiovascular Risk, and ICSI Guideline Implementation teams worked diligently throughout the year, thoughtfully analyzed their topics and all arrived at a similar conclusion. Practices in our region need registries to make substantive progress providing more consistent preventive care and to do a better job of

helping patients lower their risk of suffering heart attacks, strokes or other CV complications. Patient registries help practices easily identify populations of patients within their practice - for example, all patients with diabetes or hypertension.

Practices that do the best job of helping patients stay healthy use their registry to identify missed services or treatment goals that aren't being met. They measure their success and make changes to clinic processes to get better results. Using a patient registry is one requirement for a practice to be designated a medical home. Electronic health records help but they are not essential. Electronic billing and scheduling systems can also be used to develop a patient registry.

The Quest Strategic Planning Committee recommended adding a focus in improving the safety and appropriateness of high technology imaging in 2009. ICSI has had success leading a similar project over the past two years. Quest will be hosting an evening informational meeting in early March. The Quest team will begin its work later in March. If you have an interest in serving on the High Technology Imaging Team, please let me know.

Respectfully,

Gail M. Amundson, MD, FACP