

## Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

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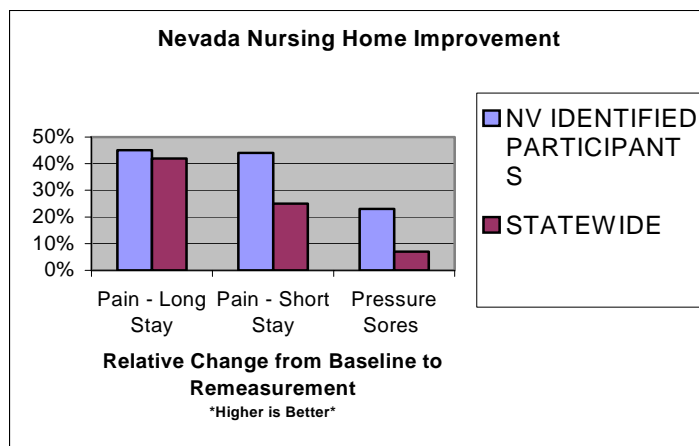
***HealthInsight Announces Improvements in Healthcare Quality in Nevada***

*Information Available from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Confirms Medicare Data*

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, March 20, 2006 – *HealthInsight*, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) in Nevada, announced today that Nevada healthcare providers are improving in key settings of care, as documented by Medicare and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

AHRQ released on March 17<sup>th</sup> new state-level data on its website, [www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov](http://www.qualitytools.ahrq.gov), that presents an overview of the quality of health care for each state. Some of the data AHRQ reports are measures that QIOs work with providers to improve. At the national level, AHRQ concluded that Medicare’s QIO measures for heart disease and pneumonia showed a combined rate of improvement that was almost four times higher than non-QIO measures – 9.2 percent compared to 2.5 percent.

“The AHRQ announcement last week underscores the improvements in nursing homes we at *HealthInsight* are seeing in the data Nevada providers report to Medicare. For instance, nursing homes in Nevada that worked closely with *HealthInsight* between 2002 and 2004 saw a decrease in the percentage of short-stay residents with pain from 28 percent to 16 percent, a relative improvement of 44 percent,” said Marc Bennett, President and CEO of *HealthInsight*. “Because nursing homes are tackling the difficult task of examining the care they provide and looking for ways to improve that care, patients in our state can expect safer, better care.”



In addition to the high level AHRQ data, information gathered by Medicare shows specific improvements in several quality of care measures within the hospital, home health, and physician office settings.

For example:

- Nevada hospitals that worked with *HealthInsight* saw a 51 percent improvement in prescribing beta blockers at arrival and a 63 percent improvement in prescribing beta blockers at discharge for heart attack patients.
- Home health agencies that worked with *HealthInsight* improved the rate of acute care hospitalization by 57 percent.

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- Physicians in Nevada that worked closely with *HealthInsight* improved the percentage of diabetic patients that receive a lipid panel blood test by 9 percent. This test assesses the risk of coronary artery disease, the leading cause of death among diabetics in the U.S.

Henderson Healthcare Center partnered with *HealthInsight* to participate in the National Nursing Home Improvement Collaborative to decrease the number of community-acquired pressure ulcers by strengthening communication across the continuum of care. In order to learn more about why pressure sores develop with the transfer of patients within the health care system, the facility collaborated with St. Rose Dominican Hospitals – Siena Campus to help identify contributing factors during the transfer of patients. By putting into place interventions that focused on communication across healthcare settings, Henderson Healthcare Center reached their goal and reduced their community acquired pressure ulcers by more than 50 percent.

For more information on quality indicators or any of the quality improvement resources available at *HealthInsight*, contact Kristen Boucher at 702-340-6255 or [kboucher@healthinsight.org](mailto:kboucher@healthinsight.org).

*HealthInsight*, the Quality Improvement Organization for Utah and Nevada provides free assistance to hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, and physicians on quality improvement. They also work with consumers to advocate for quality and to help them understand and to assure that they receive the quality health care they need. *HealthInsight* has been working with the federal Medicare program for over 30 years in Utah and for 18 years in Nevada.

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