ACS Targets 1,000 Hospitals For NSQIP

PRNewswire/ -- The American College of Surgeons (ACS) today announced its goal to enlist at least 1,000 hospitals into its respected National Surgical Quality Improvement Program. The commitment is part of the ACS Inspiring Quality initiative launched today, an effort to raise awareness of proven models of quality improvement, coordinated care and disease management that can help improve the quality and value of healthcare.

The announcement was made in conjunction with the Chicago Surgical Health Care Quality Forum. To encourage hospitals to collaborate and share best practices in quality improvement, ACS will host a series of community forums across the nation with healthcare leaders representing academic medical centers and medical schools, hospitals and not-for-profit health care associations.

As part of the initiative, ACS has also released a series of videos that capture what "inspiring quality" means from the perspective of patients, surgeons and the overall industry. These videos can be found on the ACS website www.facs.org/quality [1]. Additional videos will be added to the site as meetings are held across the country. Coordinated quality and patient safety efforts are an important national focus with the release this year of the National Quality Strategy, led by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Getting at least 1,000 hospitals into ACS NSQIP can dramatically accelerate movement toward meeting National Quality Strategy goals. Currently, about 400 hospitals participate in ACS NSQIP, which is based on collecting clinical, risk-adjusted, 30-day outcomes data in a nationally benchmarked database. Called "Best in the Nation" by the Institute of Medicine, ACS NSQIP is serving as a national model for outcomes-based quality improvement.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is currently considering five measures from ACS NSQIP for potential national implementation as early as 2012. ACS NSQIP has been shown to help hospitals significantly reduce complications and save lives. A 2009 study in the *Annals of Surgery* found participating hospitals prevent 250-500 complications and save 13-26 lives per hospital per year. At an average cost of $11,000 per complication, hospitals can save millions of dollars a year.

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Links:

[1] http://www.facs.org/quality