

## **Resources for Healthcare Consumers**

Healthcare quality means that patients get the right medicine, treatments, and medical tests at the right times for their condition. Facilities vary in the quality of care they provide, but there are many resources available to inform decisions about where to receive healthcare. Valuable information for healthcare related decisions can be found on the websites listed below. The first three websites listed enable facility comparisons on various quality indicators, and include two Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) websites that compare CMS approved facilities nationwide and a Colorado Hospital Association website that compares hospitals in Colorado only.

- Medicare Hospital Compare website: [www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov](http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov) or [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).
- Medicare Dialysis Facility Compare website: [www.medicare.gov/dialysis/home.asp](http://www.medicare.gov/dialysis/home.asp).
- Colorado Hospital Report Card website: [www.cha.com](http://www.cha.com).
- Centers for Disease Control: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).
- The Leap Frog Group: <http://www.leapfroggroup.org/>
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement: <http://www.ihl.org/ihl>
- Colorado Foundation for Medical Care: <http://www.cfmc.org>

The practice of posting healthcare facility information on websites encourages accountability and continuous improvement in the quality of care provided. Beyond website resources, there are several national and international associations focused on safe healthcare that can also provide useful information on HAI and healthcare quality, in general:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- American Hospital Association (AHA)
- Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Consumer's Union
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Food and Drug Administration
- Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
- The Joint Commission (TJC)
- Safe Care Campaign
- Safe Injection Practices Coalition
- Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)

To get the best use of the resources presented above, consumers should also always consult with their doctors, hospitals, families and friends before deciding where to receive care. In doing so, they should consider the experience of the facility, staff and other quality indicators in addition to the infection data presented in this report. This report should be used as one of many quality

indicators and cannot, on its own, provide a complete picture of healthcare quality in Colorado facilities.

The Hospital Report Card released by The Colorado Hospital Association is a valuable internet source for consumers in Colorado. The website offers user-friendly data with graphs and tables and incorporates additional patient safety metrics among hospitals. The Hospital Report Card can be viewed at the following link: [www.cha.com](http://www.cha.com). As infections are not the only adverse event that may happen to a consumer, it is important to weigh all factors in judging the quality of healthcare.