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NEVADANS TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ON HOSPITALS
Introducing a new Web site for comparing Nevada health data

Carson City, NV — A new state Web site unveiled today will give Nevadans the tools to make more informed choices about their health care by comparing hospitals on a variety of factors, including diagnoses, costs and lengths of stay.

NevadaCompareCare.Net is a collaborative effort toward health data transparency that was a result of Assembly Bill 146 from the 2007 Legislative Session. The Department of Health and Human Services partnered with many primary stakeholders in developing the site, including the Health Services Coalition, the Nevada Hospital Association, Nevada Rural Hospital Partners, the Center for Health Information Analysis and the state's ambulatory surgery centers and their association.

"The creation of this site was a true collaboration between the state, hospitals, stakeholders and many others who took the time and effort, and even contributed financially, to ensure a quality Web site is available to the public," said DHHS Director Mike Willden. "I think our citizens will find Nevada Compare Care incredibly useful when making choices regarding their health care."

The site offers information about hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers that can be searched and sorted to provide a comparison between facilities based on a variety of data sets, including the number of cases per diagnosis, costs per case and average lengths of stay. Reports can be generated by diagnoses and treatments, and these can be viewed specifically by payer, age group and gender.

NevadaCompareCare.Net was designed as an interface to help Nevadans compile complex health care data into easily understood reports. The inaugural site was developed for the state by UNLV's Center for Health Information Analysis under the direction of Joseph Greenway. Additional phases will be implemented over the next year to make the Web site more user-friendly and comprehensive.

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“As consumers attempt to gain greater control over their health care services, they’re looking for useful and understandable information,” Greenway said. “The purpose of the health data transparency movement is to provide this information. Our center has been partnering with the state over the last few years to bring knowledge to Nevada residents in order to assist them in making important health care decisions.”

While many stakeholders worked diligently to help make NevadaCompareCare.Net a reality, of particular assistance was the Health Services Coalition, which was an early proponent of the legislation, but also donated \$125,000 to ensure the project was completed on time when the state’s budget crisis began threatening implementation.

“The Nevada Compare Care Web site signifies a new day in Nevada health care transparency and is an essential step in improving the state’s health care system,” said Cindy Kiser Murphey, co-chair of Health Services Coalition. “As the Web site continues to evolve, Nevadans will have access to a user-friendly informational tool that will help assist them in making more knowledgeable health care decisions.”

NevadaCompareCare.Net is being initially launched with hospital inpatient data for the calendar years 2005-2007, however, outpatient data, quality indicator reports and much more will be added in the coming months. Data will also be updated regularly as it becomes available.

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