

STATE OF MARYLAND

Craig P. Tanio, M.D.  
CHAIR



Ben Steffen  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

4160 PATTERSON AVENUE – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215  
TELEPHONE: 410-764-3460 FAX: 410-358-1236

### **New Website Available on Quality of Care in Maryland Hospitals**

*Commission's Health Care Quality Reports website provides tool for comparing quality and performance on Maryland health care providers*

**Baltimore, MD** (November 20, 2014) Today, the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) announced the simultaneous launch of *Maryland Health Care Quality Reports* website and the expanded Hospital Performance Guide.

The *Maryland Health Care Quality Reports* brings together the Commission's consumer guides on hospitals, long term care and ambulatory surgery centers as well as the quality report on health benefits plans to create a comprehensive consumer friendly resource tool. Information on the site includes consumer ratings of the care provided, safety and quality results, and pricing information for certain types of hospital services and nursing home care. On each of the guides, consumers can construct comparison reports on selected providers.

"*Maryland Health Care Quality Reports* represents a shift in public reporting toward more consumer centered tools that enable consumers to become more engaged in their healthcare decisions", said Ben Steffen, Executive Director of the Maryland Health Care Commission.

The new Hospital Performance Guide, now one key component of the *Maryland Health Care Quality Reports*, enables consumers to search and compare information on the 46 Maryland hospitals. The site has been redesigned based on the input from consumer focus groups and quality experts. The new Guide contains important data on how well hospitals perform on quality measures – such as the frequency of certain infections that develop in the hospital and how often patients have to be readmitted to the hospital. Chairman of the Maryland Health Care Commission, Dr. Craig Tanio announced the redesigned Performance Guide which includes information on patient satisfaction, infection reporting, and patient safety, and the costs of the 25 common services such as childbirth and heart failure.

"This vastly improved website will provide new information in an easy-to-use format to patients and inform hospital decision makers on how their institutions compare in Maryland and to national standards for performance", said Dr Tanio.

### **About the Maryland Health Care Commission**

The Maryland Health Care Commission is a 15-member independent regulatory agency whose mission is to plan for health system needs, promote informed decision-making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing health care environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policy makers, purchasers, providers and the public. The 15 Commissioners are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Maryland Senate. The Commission's vision for Maryland is to ensure that informed consumers hold the health care system accountable and have access to affordable and appropriate health care services through programs that serve as models for the nation.

### **For Additional Information about the Hospital Guide, contact:**

Theresa Lee, Director, Center for Quality Measurement and Reporting at 410-764-3328

TOLL FREE  
1-877-245-1762

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MARYLAND RELAY SERVICE  
1-800-735-2258