

October 29, 2021

Dear CEO:

We are pleased to inform you that the LHA Foundation, formerly known as Louisiana Hospital Association Research and Education Foundation (LHAREF), has launched a new, voluntary initiative to offer ongoing, meaningful quality-improvement resources and support statewide. **We are asking for the Commitment Form and the Business Associate Agreement (BAA) to be signed and returned to us.**

For the past eight years, the LHA Foundation has supported more than 100 hospitals as part of the Hospital Engagement Network (HEN) and the Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN) programs. The hospitals that were previously engaged with the LHA Foundation through these programs made significant progress in reducing preventable harm, which saved hospitals and health systems more than \$180 million in healthcare-related cost and saved 1,831 lives between 2016 through 2020 (HIIN), as well as saved an estimated \$335 million in healthcare costs from 2012 to 2014 (HEN). Despite these successes, there is still much work to be done, and we are thrilled with the opportunity to continue supporting hospitals.

The LHA Foundation has partnered with an organization specializing in providing clinical quality improvement tools and resources, Convergence/Cynosure Health, to offer your hospital virtual access to high-quality, on-demand resources to educate your staff and achieve hospital-defined goals. In exchange, the LHA Foundation requests that your hospital submits monthly data on commonly-reported, nationally-standardized quality measures that the LHA and LHA Foundation will use to populate the LHA Executive Quality Dashboards for quarterly distribution. In addition, submission of the requested data will allow your hospital to benchmark against hospitals both in Louisiana and across the nation.

Attached are two required documents for your review and execution: 1) a Commitment Form stating your willingness to engage with the resources and learning opportunities offered and your willingness to submit the monthly data requested; and 2) a standard BAA that will protect the data exchange between the hospital and the LHA/LHA Foundation that defines how the data will be used. The standard BAA is a generic template, and where applicable, the LHA Foundation will consider accepting modified BAAs at the system level.

We are asking for you, as the Executive Leader, and your designated quality lead to sign the Commitment Form. Please contact the LHA Foundation Quality Program Manager Michelle Smith at msmith@lhaonline.org or 225-928-0026, ext. 217, or LHA VP of Quality Improvement & Member Services Aimee Cloyd at acloyd@lhaonline.org or 225-928-0026, ext. 207 with any questions. **Fully executed, scanned originals can be emailed to Michelle or faxed to 225-923-1004.**

Thank you in advance for your participation and commitment to reducing harm and improving care in your community.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Salles
President & CEO
Louisiana Hospital Association
LHA Foundation