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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **“Harrisburg Medical Center Participates in National Project to Improve Quality, Safety of Care”**

Harrisburg Medical Center, as an active participant in the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid’s (C.M.S.) nationwide Partnership for Patients initiative, reports progress towards achieving its goals of reducing medical errors and hospital readmissions.

“We are proud of the collaborative work underway to reduce hospital infections, improve performance and advance ways to help our patients improve their health,” said Rodney Smith, hospital president and C.E.O.

Harrisburg Medical Center’s Project Director Tracey Bragg, Director of Quality/Medical Services, is working with Joint Commission Resources, one of the 26 C.M.S.-selected collaborators, referred to as “Hospital Engagement Network” or “H.E.N.”

The Partnership for Patients H.E.N.s are required to conduct intensive training programs to teach and support hospitals in making care safer; provide technical assistance for hospitals and other providers; and establish and implement a system to track and monitor hospital progress in meeting quality improvement goals consistent with the aims of the Partnership for Patients campaign. The aims are to reduce the occurrence of harmful events by 40% and reduce readmissions by 20% by the end of 2013 nationally.

Tracey Bragg, Director of Quality/Medical Services, noted how the hospital staff is advancing work towards the achieving these national aims by adopting proven quality improvement methods.

“At Harrisburg Medical Center, we’ve readily adopted new improvement tools such as lean technology using industry proven best practices, coaching calls and implementing patient and system tracers leading to positive results for our patients,” said Tracey Bragg, Director of Quality/Medical Services

Nationwide, more than 3,000 hospitals are participating in the Partnership for Patients campaign with the overall goals of saving \$35 billion from safer care including Medicare savings. Participating institutions range from small and rural Critical Access Hospitals to academic medical centers.