



WVAHC *Reform News*

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

Volume 4

Spring 2009

Issue 1

Quality of West Virginia Hospitals Rated

West Virginia has some of the best hospitals in the nation, according to a recent analysis of national data on quality by West Virginians for Affordable Health Care (WVAHC). But it also has three of the country's lowest rated hospitals. (See chart on page 2 for ranking of hospitals with 100 or more beds.)

United Hospital Center in Clarksburg was rated in the top one percent of hospitals in the country for quality. Four more hospitals — WVU, Greenbrier Valley Medical Center, Monongalia General, and Fairmont General — were rated in the top ten percent of hospitals nationally. Another ten West Virginia hospitals were rated in the top 10 to 25 percent of hospitals. A majority (15 of 26) of the state's hospitals that have over 100 beds were rated in the top quarter of hospitals nationally.

The disturbing news is that three West Virginia hospitals were rated in the bottom 25 percent. City Hospital in Martinsburg, Thomas Memorial, and Beckley ARH Hospital were all rated in the bottom quarter.

"Based on this data, which is the most robust I have seen on quality to date, most hospitals in West Virginia are providing high-quality health care. But the results are uneven, and the state should adopt a strategic plan for improving the quality of care provided at the hospitals that were rated at the bottom of national ratings," stated Perry Bryant, Executive Director of WVAHC.

The quality ratings were based on 23 measures related to heart attack care, heart failure care, pneumonia care, surgical care improvement, and survey results from patient on their experience at the hospital. All of the 23 measures were related to process, such as: What percentage of surgery patients received preventive antibiotics one hour before incision? Or, what percentage of heart attack

patients were given aspirin when they arrived at the hospital?

These indicators do not measure outcomes, such as: What percentage of patients who smoke quit after being given smoking cessation counseling? Or what percentage of surgeries were successful?

Another limitation of the data is that it is not based on all services provided in a hospital. There are no data on obstetrics, for example. So persons having a baby cannot use these measures to help decide on a hospital.

Finally, some hospitals may do a better job of reporting. Their expertise may be in reporting not necessarily providing quality care.

Even with these limitations, this is the most comprehensive and objective measure of quality of care for West Virginia hospitals ever published. WVAHC has posted on its web site, www.wvahc.org, the data on overall quality of care for all West Virginia hospital. WVAHC is also posting the rating for the larger hospitals (those with more than 100 beds) for the quality of care for heart attacks, heart failure care, pneumonia care, and surgical care, as well as the composite score for survey results from patients. Feel free to pass along this information to any West Virginian who could benefit from this report.

Currently, the Health Care Authority provides detailed information about the cost of various procedures by all West Virginia hospitals on its web site, www.comparecarewv.gov. "Consumers should not make health care decisions based solely on price. It is the combination of price plus quality that gives consumers their best *value* for health care. WVAHC has urged the Health Care Authority to integrate the hospital quality data into their cost comparison data," stated Bryant.

(See Quality Rankings Chart--Page 2)

Quality Ranking of West Virginia Hospitals

Hospital Name/ National Ranking	Overall Quality	National Ranking Out of 2,083 Hospitals
Top 1% Nationally		
United Hospital Center	98.36%	12
Top 10% Nationally		
WVU Hospital	96.66%	119
Greenbrier Valley Medical Center	96.59%	125
Mon General Hospital	95.99%	195
Fairmont General	95.88%	206
Top 25% Nationally		
CAMC	95.18%	327
Wheeling Hospital	94.26%	512
Cabell-Huntington Hospital	94.22%	521
Princeton Community	93.76%	615
Weirton Medical Center	93.45%	695
Ohio Valley Medical Center	93.06%	789
St. Mary's Medical Center	92.80%	849
Reynolds Memorial Hospital	92.52%	908
St. Joseph Healthcare System	92.29%	944
Middle 50% Nationally		
Logan Regional Medical Center	93.61%*	826**
Raleigh General Hospital	91.67%	1071
Camden Clark Memorial	87.84%	1670
St. Francis	87.25%	1729
Bluefield Regional Medical Center	86.14%	1807
Bottom 25% Nationally		
City Hospital	80.22%	2008
Thomas Memorial	77.68%	2033
Beckley ARH Hospital	73.70%*	2052**
Unrated: Generally the sample size is too small to accurately rate these hospitals.		
Grafton City Hospital	N/A	N/A
Pleasant Valley Hospital	N/A	N/A
Summersville Memorial	N/A	N/A
Welch Community Hospital	N/A	N/A

* Data from April 2007 through March 2008. The most recent data available for this hospital.

**Hospital ranking is out of 2087 hospitals nationally.

Legislative Session is a Lost Opportunity to Reform Health Care

A complete review of the legislative session activity on health care can be found on our web site, www.wvahc.org. It was a very disappointing session.

The legislature did pass, and at press time WVAHC is waiting for Governor Manchin to sign or veto, legislation to create the Governor's Office of Health Enhancement and Lifestyle Planning, or GO HELP.

GO HELP is not health care reform. It offers the hope of future health care reform.

The two basic functions of GO HELP are to coordinate the various health care initiatives of state government and to plan for future reform. It will take a special director of GO HELP to insure that the leaders of the Medicaid, PEIA, the Health Care Authority, and other state health care agencies to work together.

It will also be challenging to develop a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan for health care reform by December 31, 2009. Initiatives to be included in the strategic plan include: promoting bicycle and pedestrian trails and sidewalks; promoting universal wellness and health promotion benefits; support for efforts to decrease tobacco use; and promotion of health information technology, such as electronic health records.

In addition to these activities, GO HELP will take over the functions of the Pharmaceutical Cost Management Council. These functions include collecting and publishing information on the amount of money that drug manufacturers spend on trying to influence doctors (and other prescribers) to write prescriptions for brand name drugs. GO HELP will also collect and publish the amount of money that drug manufacturers spend on direct to consumer advertising, which is all the ads on TV and the full page ads in magazines that promote brand name drugs.

GO HELP will also oversee the development of four different pilot projects for patient-centered medical homes (PCMHs). PCMHs are a team approach to treating patients, particularly those with chronic illnesses.

Ultimately, the success or failure of GO HELP will depend on who is hired to be the Director and the public and political will to make the necessary changes.

The other major health care bill considered by the legislature was the menu labeling bill, which would give

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Legislative Session Is a Lost Opportunity to Reform Health Care (continued)

consumer caloric information when they order food at fast food restaurants.

Listed below is how Senators voted on the menu labeling bill. The first vote was for passage of SB 419. This vote failed, and the bill appeared dead. However, Senator Frank Deem moved to reconsider the vote. That motion passed. The Senate then amended the bill and removed Tudor's Biscuit World and other restaurants owned by former Senator Oshel Craigo. That motion passed, and then the Senate voted to pass SB 419, which is the second vote recorded below.

When the menu labeling bill reached the House Health Committee, they took out the "Craigo" amendment and passed the bill on the House Government Organization Committee. While eating donuts and

biscuits, this committee voted 7 to 16 to kill the bill.

Those who voted to support the bill included: Sam Cann (D-Harrison), Bobby Hatfield (D-Kanawha), Jim Morgan (D-Cabell), Danny Poling (D-Wood), Doug Skaff (D-Kanawha), Margaret Staggers (D-Fayette) and Dale Stephens (D-Cabell).

Those who voted to kill the bill included: Sam Argento (D-Nicholas), Tom Azinger (R-Wood), Greg Butcher (D-Logan), Daryl Cowles (R-Morgan), Roy Givens (D-Brooke), Daniel Hall (D-Wyoming), Bill Hartman (D-Randolph), Dale Martin (D-Putnam), Pat McGeehan (R-Hancock), Carol Miller (R-Cabell), Jonathan Miller (R-Berkeley), Mike Porter (R-Mercer), Mike Ross (D-Randolph), Ruth Rowan (R-Mineral), Randy Swartzmiller (D-Hancock), and Joe Talbott (D-Webster).

Senate Roll Call Votes on the Menu Labeling Bill, SB 419

Name	Yes Vote Is for Passage	Yes Vote Is for Passage	Percentage Right
Clark Barnes (R-Randolph)	No	No	0%
Donna Boley (R-Pleasants)	No	No	0%
Ed Bowman (D-Hancock)	No	No	0%
Richard Browning (D-Wyoming)	Yes	Yes	100%
Don Caruth (D-Mercer)	No	No	0%
Truman Chafin (D-Mingo)	No	Yes	50%
Frank Deem (R-Wood)	No	Yes	50%
Larry Edgell (D-Wetzel)	Yes	Yes	100%
Doug Facemire (D-Braxton)	No	No	0%
Karen Facemyer (R-Jackson)	No	No	0%
John Pat Fanning (D-McDowell)	Absent	No	0%
Dan Foster (D-Kanawha)	Yes	Yes	100%
Mike Green (D-Raleigh)	Yes	Yes	100%
Jesse Guills (R-Greenbrier)	No	No	0%
Mike Hall (R-Putnam)	No	No	0%
Walt Helmick (D-Pocahontas)	No	No	0%
Evan Jenkins (D-Cabell)	Yes	Yes	100%
Jeff Kessler (D-Marshall)	Yes	Yes	100%
Bill Laird (D-Fayette)	Yes	Yes	100%
Brooks McCabe (D-Kanawha)	Yes	Yes	100%
Joe Minard (D-Harrison)	No	No	0%
Mike Oliverio (D-Monongalia)	No	No	0%
Corey Palumbo (D-Kanawha)	Yes	Yes	100%
Bob Plymale (D-Wayne)	No	Yes	50%
Roman Prezioso (D-Marion)	Yes	Yes	100%
Herb Snyder (D-Jefferson)	Yes	Yes	100%
Ron Stollings (D-Boone)	Yes	Yes	100%
Dave Sypolt (R-Preston)	No	No	0%
Earl Ray Tomblin (D-Logan)	Yes	Yes	100%
Erik Wells (D-Kanawha)	Yes	Yes	100%
Randy White (D-Webster)	No	No	0%
Bob Williams (D-Taylor)	No	No	0%
Jack Yost (D-Brooke)	No	No	0%

WVAHC Fund Raising Event Scheduled

WVAHC will host a fund raiser on **Monday, June 1st from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Women’s Club**, 1600 Virginia Street East in Charleston. The cost of the fund raiser is \$25 or “whatever you can afford.”

“Frankly, if West Virginia is going to have a strong, consumer voice in the health care debate, it’s important that consumers be involved and contribute to the effort. Please join us and bring a friend on June 1st for food, drink, and friends. We need your support,” stated Renate Pore, President of the WVAHC Board of Directors.

If you need tickets or directions, contact Perry at 304-344-1673 or pbryant@wvahc.org.

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care--Membership Form

Enclosed is my contribution for \$50____ \$75____ \$100____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip _____

Email Address : _____

(Please print clearly)

Please mail your membership form to: **WVAHC, 1544 Lee Street, Charleston, West Virginia 25311** -- Thank you!

