Dear Chief Executive Officer:

By now we are sure you are aware of the widely publicized U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Partnership for Patients initiative, which aims to decrease preventable hospital harms by 40 percent and reduce preventable hospital 30-day readmissions by 20 percent by the end of 2013. The initiative is estimated to have the potential to save 60,000 lives.

This letter is to invite your hospital to participate in a survey which will help shape this important initiative to better meet hospital needs, as well as obtain baseline information for evaluating whether the initiative resulted in changes in hospital safety practices. As part of a comprehensive program improvement and evaluation project, Mathematica Policy Research (Mathematica), an independent research organization, will survey hospital-based Quality Improvement (QI) directors across the United States to learn about ongoing and planned improvement initiatives related to the specific Partnership for Patients goals, current patient safety practices, and resource availability and needs.

The web-based Hospital Survey on Prevention of Adverse Events and Reduction of Preventable Readmissions will be fielded in early spring of this year and then again in 2014. The survey includes both hospitals involved in the Partnership for Patients initiative and those that are not.

In order to send your hospital’s QI director an email invitation to participate in the survey, we need his/her full name, email address, and phone number. We greatly appreciate you providing us with this information. Contact information—and survey results—will be kept strictly confidential, with results provided to HHS only in the aggregate.

Please email the contact information (name, email, and phone number) for your hospital’s QI Director to Kathleen Feeney at kfeeney@mathematica-mpr.com as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please call Kirsten Barrett, Mathematica’s survey Director at (202) 554-7564 or via email at kbarrett@mathematica-mpr.com. If you would like to learn more about the Partnership for Patients initiative, visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website at http://www.healthcare.gov/partnershipforpatients. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Walter Stone
CMS Privacy Officer