



STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

161 Delaware Avenue Delmar, NY 12054-1393

Antonia C. Novello, M.D., M.P.H., Dr. P.H.  
*Commissioner*

Dennis P. Whalen  
*Executive Deputy Commissioner*

October 18, 2006

DQS/DAL #06-18  
Re: Partnering for Successful Discharge  
Planning Conference

Dear Administrator:

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) invites you to attend an important conference to assist health care providers in addressing the challenges related to transitioning patients across settings. The conference, “Partnering for Successful Discharge Planning”, is co-sponsored by DOH and the State Office for the Aging (SOFA), and will be held on November 28<sup>th</sup> at the Albany Marriott, Albany, New York, from 8:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Several partners have worked with DOH and SOFA in planning this event, including the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), provider associations, professional associations, and others. The conference is one product of this collaboration to develop tools to assist providers in improving coordination and information transfer when an individual moves from one health care setting to another.

All partners in this effort believe strongly that improvements in these areas and others can benefit patients, and reduce inefficiencies and cost.

The conference will provide attendees an understanding of the regulatory requirements and challenges of discharge planning in various settings. The attached brochure will provide more information on conference sessions that include:

- federal and state regulations for hospitals, nursing homes, and home care and state regulations for adult care and assisted living facilities;
- tools the workgroup developed to aid staff in discharge planning;
- the role of managed care;
- best practices of regional partnerships for patient information sharing; and
- collaborations to address the discharge needs of the most challenging individuals.

The Department views improving discharge planning, coordination, and implementation as a policy and regulatory priority. It is important that all providers become educated on their

requirements and the expectations for appropriate coordination and information transfer. We strongly encourage you to attend this important discussion.

Online registrations can be completed at <http://www.ipro.org/nhqi> by clicking on the conference listed under "Upcoming Events." Please contact Anna Colello, Director of Regulatory Compliance, Office of Health Systems Management, at (518) 402-5733 if you have any questions regarding the conference. Thank you for your continued efforts to improve the health care experience for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith W. Servis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'K' and 'S'.

Keith W. Servis, Director  
Division of Quality & Surveillance  
for Nursing Homes & ICFs/MR