



The Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) is the not-for-profit research and educational affiliate of the American Hospital Association (AHA). It focuses on identifying and exploring key health care issues affecting the access, quality, and safety of health care delivery systems. HRET's applied research seeks to create new knowledge and understanding about improving the delivery of health care by providers and practitioners within the communities they serve. Through its AHA affiliation, HRET has access to valuable resources, data, and thought leadership while maintaining the autonomy necessary for conducting independent, high-quality research.

HRET Mission

Transforming health care through research and education

AHA Vision

A society of healthy communities where all individuals reach their highest potential for health

Research

HRET's research portfolio comprises work conducted through its research networks and primary research:

ACTION (Accelerating Changing and Transformation in Organizations and Networks): ACTION is a five-year program of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) that awards research task order contracts to prequalified networks. The goal is to produce quick-turnaround, action-oriented research projects. The initiative also produces evidence-based tools to assist health system leaders in making critical operational decisions and managing organizational change. ACTION convenes research partners from diverse sectors and is unique in its capacity to translate findings of health care management research into operational practice. HRET heads one of 14 ACTION networks.

CHMR (Center for Health Management Research): The mission of CHMR is to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of health services delivery and management through member-driven, timely, actionable, and evidence-based research. CHMR currently has 10 active hospital/health system members.

Primary research: Primary research complements the network research by focusing on studies of interest to the hospital sector. These studies are funded primarily by private foundations and federal agencies. Like the network research, this research aims to provide information and tools that can be used by providers in the field as well as policy makers.

Sample of current projects

- Evidence-Based Best Practices to Maximize Physician Adoption and Use of EHR Systems in Ambulatory Settings
- Electronic Medical Records and Nurse Staffing
- Promoting Safety and Quality through Human Resource Practices
- Improving Patient Flow and Reducing ED Crowding
- National Implementation of the Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program to Reduce Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections in the Intensive Care Unit
- Annual Employer-Based Health Benefits Survey
- The Impact of Medicare's "Hospital-Acquired Conditions" Reimbursement Policy on Safety Net Hospitals
- Eliminating Perinatal HIV Transmission; Increasing Early Detection of HIV Infection in Hospitals

Education

HRET's flagship publication is the **Health Services Research** journal. Rated as one of the top journals in the field, HSR publishes outstanding articles reporting the findings of original investigations that expand understanding of the wide-ranging field of health care and help improve the health of individuals and communities.

Several of HRET's recent research efforts have produced tools that can be used in the field. Examples include HRET's Toolkit for Collecting Race, Ethnicity, and Primary Language Information from Patients, an online toolkit designed to help hospitals collect better data to improve the quality of care; HIV Testing in Emergency Departments: A Practical Guide; and The Physician Practice Patient Safety Assessment™. These evidence-based tools are available at www.hret.org/hret/education/toolkits.html.

TRUST Award

Created in 2003 by HRET, this award honors those individuals (Robert H. Brook, Janet M. Corrigan, Gail L. Warden, Brent C. James, Donald M. Berwick, David M. Lawrence) who have demonstrated long-standing leadership in improving health care quality and rebuilding trust within America's health care organizations and communities. *Trust* has been a hallmark of HRET for more than 60 years.

Sample of HRET's Funders

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- American Hospital Association (AHA)
- California HealthCare Foundation
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Commonwealth Fund
- Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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