



**American Hospital  
Association**

Contact: Elizabeth Lietz, (202) 626-2284

**STATEMENT ON CENTER FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES'  
ANNOUNCEMENT ON CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION, REGULATORY RELIEF**

**Rich Umbdenstock  
President and CEO  
American Hospital Association**

October 18, 2011

Today's announcement is welcome news for hospitals and patients, providing much-needed regulatory relief to a health system choked with paperwork.

We applaud CMS for addressing concerns heard from America's hospitals. The proposed new conditions of participation better recognize how care is delivered today. They eliminate unnecessary paperwork, allowing nurses more time at the bedside. In addition, the new rules allow multi-hospital systems to have one governing board that can provide comprehensive oversight across their hospitals.

While we also appreciate the changes made in the regulatory relief rule, there's more work to be done to allow hospitals, physicians, nursing homes and others to better coordinate care for patients.

We look forward to working with CMS to further reduce regulatory burdens that get in the way of patient care.

###