

**Delivering the right care at the right time in the right setting is the core mission of hospitals across the country. The AHA is committed to helping members improve the quality of care they deliver every day and is engaged in a variety of initiatives that lead to better, safer, more efficient care.**

## Early Elective Deliveries

**42%** ↓  
Reduction

**\$10** million  
Savings

## Readmissions

**14%** ↓  
Reduction

**\$100** million  
Savings

Hospitals have been actively working to improve quality – reducing infections, preventing complications in care, improving communication, engaging patients and their families so that care is tailored to meet their needs – hospital leaders are keenly aware that more needs to be done.

That is why the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET), an affiliate of the AHA, has been working in partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to support the agency's Hospital Engagement Network (HEN). Through the HEN, HRET helps hospitals adopt new practices that have the potential to reduce inpatient harm by 40 percent and readmissions by 20 percent.

HRET has provided education and training to more than 1,600 hospitals that were recruited by its 31 state hospital association partners in support of their quality improvement efforts in the areas targeted by the HEN.

The results? Over the course of a year (December 2011-December 2012), hospitals have experienced an estimated:

- 42% reduction in non-medically necessary early elective deliveries
- 14% reduction in readmissions

The quality of care is improving – and it is estimated that hospitals have saved more than:

- \$10 million by preventing non-medically necessary early elective deliveries
- \$100 million by preventing readmissions

These savings go back to government and private payers. Hospitals that are part of the HEN program are seeing significant improvements in other quality areas such as infection control, falls, ventilator-associated pneumonia and central line-associated blood stream infections. This ongoing effort to share best practices will help accelerate quality improvement for hospital patients.