



Maryland  
Hospital Association

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **New Data Reveal Marked Improvements in Hospital Safety and Quality**

**Elkridge, Md.** — Recently-compiled data show that Maryland’s hospitals are making great strides toward improving patient safety and overall hospital quality. This success is built on a commitment to improve doctor-patient relationships, coordinate among hospitals and other providers, and address patients’ unique circumstances so that they can live healthier lives. For more detail and case studies in patient safety improvement, visit [www.qualitymattersmaryland.org](http://www.qualitymattersmaryland.org), which offers additional data and resources for health care consumers. The most recent data show:

- A **48 percent reduction** in the overall number of complications acquired in Maryland’s hospitals from 2013 to 2016; this represents **13,400** fewer complications
- A **16 percent decline in C. difficile** infections (a health care infection that commonly affects older adults in hospitals who are on antibiotics) from 2015 to 2016; this represents 300 fewer such infections
- A **49 percent** reduction in the number of falls that resulted in serious injury from 2011 to 2016
- An **11 percent reduction** in the rate of readmissions from 2013 to 2016, which represents **11,000** fewer readmissions
- A **238 percent** increase from fall 2016 to spring 2017 in the number of high-risk Medicare patients whose health information is shared among providers so they can work to prevent unnecessary readmissions
- A **four-year** streak in which Maryland has outpaced the nation in Medicare readmissions reduction, achieving a **14 percent reduction** since 2011
- A **6.1 percent reduction** in hospital admissions from 2013 to 2015, which represents **40,500** fewer admissions

“The No. 1 goal of Maryland’s hospitals is to provide hope and healing,” said Maryland Hospital Association President & CEO Carmela Coyle. “These new data illustrate that hospitals across our state are helping people get the right care, at the right time, in the right setting. And they are doing it more safely than ever.”

Among the key partners hospitals continue to work with to achieve these improvements are the Maryland Hospital Association, the Maryland Patient Safety Center – the state’s designated

patient safety organization, and Health Quality Innovators – an organization that helps Maryland’s hospitals improve care by providing training and technical assistance.

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**About the Maryland Hospital Association**

*The Maryland Hospital Association is the advocate for Maryland hospitals, health systems, and their patients before legislative and regulatory bodies. Its membership is composed of community and teaching hospitals, health systems, specialty hospitals, veterans’ hospitals, and long-term care facilities. For more information, visit [www.mhaonline.org](http://www.mhaonline.org).*