Hospitals invite post-acute providers to the table!
By: Lynette Ladenburg, LeadingAge Washington

In preparing for value-based health care, health systems are creating a network of SNFs based on quality, readmission rates and the ability to integrate with the health system and their delivery of care. Post-acute providers are partnering with their local health systems as hospitals strengthen their bonds with providers. Make sure you know what it takes to become part of the care-network in your area.

In an article by Lola Butcher, Hospitals strengthen bonds with post-acute providers; she states the days of financial success being tied to a hospital’s inpatient census are quickly coming to an end. The health care system is committed to value-based health care, which means patients must be treated in the least-expensive appropriate setting. Post-acute providers play an important role in this new environment. According to Kathleen Griffin, national director of post-acute and senior services for Health Dimensions Group, “Many health systems are creating a network of SNFs that agree to meet quality standards, share data, provide certain services and work with hospitals to reduce avoidable hospitalizations.”

Measures worth considering:

- Compliance with federal and state regulations
- Meets or exceeds median for federal quality standards
- 30-day hospital readmissions rate at or below national/state norms
- Patient satisfaction ratings at or better than state median
- Patient and family engagement data and tools
- Attending SNF physicians include primary care physicians and extenders that are part of health system’s physician network
- RNs in the SNF 24/7
- Appropriate nursing hours per patient day for subacute care (4.25)
- Average length of stay for Medicare patients at or less than national average (<30 days)
- Discharge at least 60 percent to the community following subacute care
- Use of INTERACT Program, a set of tools for SNFs to reduce rehospitalizations
- Ability to share information electronically