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**Note Location!**

# NEVER EVENTS

May 1, 2009

8:30 – 10:00 AM *(coffee & networking at 8:00 AM)*

**Davenport University – Downtown Campus**

415 E Fulton - Grand Rapids MI 49503

Did you know that, beginning last October, the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) stopped reimbursing most hospitals for so-called “Never Events,” or Hospital-Acquired Conditions (HACs)? These are events that never should have happened and can be prevented, such as if the wrong appendage is operated on or a surgical instrument is left inside a body. Certain infections, blood incompatibility, pressure ulcers and air embolisms are some of the other “never events” that can occur in hospitals. In addition to “Never Events,” CMS is also targeting unnecessary hospital readmissions. Nearly 1 in 5 patients who leave the hospital will be readmitted within a month -- ¾ of these readmissions are preventable. The Leapfrog Group recently found that hospitals are falling short in fully meeting standards of care. HealthGrades is also concerned and reports that more than 92,000 deaths among Medicare beneficiaries during 2005-2007 were directly caused by mistakes. HealthGrades said there were 913,215 patient safety events in this period and these accounted for more than \$6.9 million in costs.

What is the impact of no Medicare reimbursement for “Never Events?” Who pays? Will private insurance plans also ban payment for these occurrences? Is this another reason for health care costs to increase? How are hospitals responding? Are measures being put into place to prevent “Never Events?” What is the impact on employers?

Things ARE being done about “Never Events” and hospital mistakes. Michigan leads the nation in some of these initiatives. Attend the May First Friday Forum to learn more.

Moderator & Reactor:

**Carl E. VerBeek**, Attorney, Varnum and Immediate Past Chair, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Health and Human Resources Committee.

Presenter:

**Sam R. Watson**, Senior Vice President, Patient Safety & Quality, Michigan Health and Hospital Association

Reactor:

**Rick Murdock**, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Health Plans

**RSVP** by noon Thursday, April 30: [alliancenotices@afh.org](mailto:alliancenotices@afh.org), fax or phone.

*This forum will be videotaped and broadcast on Grand Rapids area cable station 24, Livenwire, at 7:00 PM, Friday, May 22, 2009.*



**Alliance for Health**

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