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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alliance for Patient Medication Safety's continued listed as a Patient Safety Organization

Richmond, VA, December 29, 2011 - The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has accepted the Alliance for Patient Medication Safety's (APMS) certifications for continued listing as a federally certified Patient Safety Organization (PSO) for another three years.

As part of Medicare Part D, all plan sponsors and their contracted entities of pharmacies must have and maintain quality assurance (QA) programs. These QA programs are designed to reduce medication errors and adverse drug interactions with the ultimate goal of improving medication use.

Thousands of pharmacies are currently meeting their QA requirements with the user-friendly, low-cost Pharmacy Quality Commitment (PQC) program that is available through state pharmacy associations and APMS. The potential for legal exposure impeded patient safety data reporting in the past, but a change in culture and the advent of patient safety organizations has encouraged pharmacies to study and report this data in growing numbers.

“Pharmacies should implement a quality assurance program that helps them create and maintain a continuous cycle of process improvement,” said Tara Modisett, executive director for APMS. “The PQC program provides an easy way to meet QA requirements and offers feedback to help the pharmacy pinpoint weak areas in the dispensing process. As our reporting pharmacies study their patient safety data in order to maintain the highest quality of service, they can rest easy knowing that the data is protected.”

APMS was established by the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) and is listed as a PSO with AHRQ.

The mission of APMS is to foster a culture of quality within pharmacy that promotes a continuous analysis to develop best practices that will reduce medication errors, improve medication use and enhance patient care.

For more information about APMS visit <http://www.medicationsafety.org>.

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