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End-of-Life Care Planning Resources Available Through LaPOST Program

BATON ROUGE – (Nov. 9, 2015) - Medicare recently finalized a rule that will reimburse doctors who discuss advance care planning options with their patients. The policy change will take effect on Jan. 1, 2016.

The Louisiana Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (LaPOST) Coalition encourages health care professionals across the state to consider the LaPOST website as a valuable source for advance care planning information. The program is centered around LaPOST, a specialized advance care planning document designed for those facing serious, advanced illnesses.

The LaPOST website consists of instructional resources for physicians, patients and caregivers that include the Conversations Change Lives guidebook, a web-based video learning series, a religious and cultural resource library, a guide to medical treatments and the official LaPOST document.

The LaPOST Coalition also offers webinars for professionals and has launched a statewide educational program that will assist long-term care facilities in implementing advance care planning and LaPOST into their existing operations. For patients and caregivers, there are community forums to discuss issues related to end-of-life care.

Dr. Susan Nelson, LaPOST Coalition Chair, says, “We are pleased to see advance care planning become a priority in our nation’s health care system. It is clear that more patients are expressing a desire to be heard, and want to have a voice in determining the care and medical treatments they receive as their illness progresses. These conversations are not always easy to have, but are necessary to ensure that patients’ treatment wishes are honored.”

For more information about advance care planning and LaPOST, visit la-post.org, or call (225) 334-9299.

About LaPOST

The LaPOST Coalition is an initiative of the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to reshaping health care in our state. In addition to LaPOST, its focus areas include quality measurement and analytics, clinical quality improvement, practice transformation support, outreach/education and health information technology (IT). With regard to health IT, the Quality Forum supports health care providers and critical access/rural hospitals as they adopt and meaningfully use electronic health records and leads the planning and implementation of the state’s health information exchange. For more information, visit www.lhcqf.org.

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