



American Hospital Association®

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NEWS RELEASE

AHA JOINS CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE RX PRICES

Washington (August 6, 2014) –The American Hospital Association (AHA) today joined [the Campaign for Sustainable Rx Prices](#), a project that aims to spark a national dialogue about the need to find market-based solutions to the problems caused by the onslaught of new high-priced prescription medicines.

As hospitals work to lower health care costs for patients, they are looking at every component that goes into patient care, including prescription drugs, medical devices and purchasing. The issue of the high costs of specialty drugs reached critical importance when Sovaldi, a drug used to treat patients with hepatitis C, was reported to sell for \$1,000 per pill.

“Access to affordable prescription drugs is an important piece of the cost reduction puzzle. And ensuring patients get life-saving medicines at the right time can avoid future hospitalizations, which lowers our nation’s overall health care expenditures,” said Rich Umbdenstock, AHA president and CEO. “That’s why the AHA is joining this effort.”

Hospitals are working to reduce costs by improving the care they deliver. Hospitals across the country are involved in multiple performance improvement projects. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, hospitals have prevented 560,000 hospital-acquired conditions and saved 15,000 lives and \$4.1 billion over the past two years.

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About the AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the improvement of health in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which include nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information visit the website at www.aha.org.