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**Contact:**

Heather Abdel-Salam  
Public Relations/Marketing Coordinator  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
Tel: 215-351-2479  
habdel-salam@hospitalmedicine.org

**SHM Launches Project BOOST**

**(PHILADELPHIA – July 10, 2008)** – The Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM) today launched Project BOOST (**B**etter **O**utcomes for **O**lder adults through **S**afe **T**ransitions) to improve care of older patients as they transition from the hospital to home or another care facility.

Project BOOST, supported by a grant from The John A. Hartford Foundation, utilizes a team approach to assess patients' risk for re-hospitalization, and plan and execute risk-specific discharge planning activities. The project is led by a national advisory board of recognized leaders in hospital medicine, care transitions, payers and regulatory agencies. The board includes representatives from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ); The Joint Commission; Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association; pharmacy, nursing, and patient advocates; and others.

The project is comprised of three major elements. The first is a discharge planning toolkit that includes clinical tools, staff training materials, patient education materials and more.

The second element is training and technical support for selected sites. This year-long mentoring program includes a day-long training session for the local hospital improvement team, regular calls between the participating hospital's leader and project mentor, and individualized support using the BOOST toolkit.

Six hospitals have been selected to be a part of Project BOOST's pilot mentoring program:

- Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
- Queens Medical Center – Honolulu, Hawaii
- Southwestern Vermont Medical Center
- Piedmont Hospital – Atlanta, Georgia
- University of New Mexico Health Science Center School of Medicine
- ThedaCare : Appleton Medical Center, Appleton, WI; & ThedaClark Medical Center, Neenah WI).

Open enrollment for an additional twenty-four sites will begin in October 2008.

The final element of Project BOOST is advocacy at a national level to make systems changes that will support safe transition practices in hospitals and institutions across the country.

"We are incredibly fortunate that The John A. Hartford Foundation funded SHM to develop Project BOOST to improve the hospital discharge process and that experts and organization across the country have collaborated on project development," said Mark Williams, MD, principal investigator on the project and Professor & Chief of the Division of Hospital Medicine at the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University. "By providing practical quality improvement mentorship to

hospitalists, this national initiative will test the BOOST discharge toolkit in a wide variety of hospitals and demonstrate its success in real-world situations.”

For more information on Project BOOST, please email [boost@hospitalmedicine.org](mailto:boost@hospitalmedicine.org).

SHM is the premier medical society representing hospitalists. Over the past decade, research studies proving that hospitalists decrease patient lengths of stay, hospital costs and patient mortality rates while increasing patient satisfaction, have galvanized the hospital medicine profession and spurred demand for hospitalists nationwide. Currently, hospital medicine is the fastest-growing medical specialty in the U.S., with over 20,000 hospitalists today and is projected to grow to about 30,000 by the end of the decade. For more information about SHM, visit [www.hospitalmedicine.org](http://www.hospitalmedicine.org).

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