



## **NEWS**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Saint Luke's Hospital one of six in nation selected for Equity Quality Improvement Collaborative**

*Hospital to develop and share tools for improving cardiac care for African-American and Hispanic patients with acute myocardial infarction (AMI) or congestive heart failure*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City has been selected as one of six hospitals across the U.S. to participate in the *Aligning Forces for Quality: Equity Quality Improvement Collaborative (Equity QI Collaborative)*, an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). As part of the involvement, the hospital will develop and share tools for improving cardiac care for African-American and Hispanic patients with acute myocardial infarction (AMI) or congestive heart failure.

Vice President of Clinical Diversity and Medical Director of the Forensic Care Program for Saint Luke's Health System, Michael Weaver, M.D., will lead the hospital's participation.

The Equity QI Collaborative is part of *Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q)*, the Foundation's signature initiative to lift the overall quality of health care in targeted communities, reduce racial and ethnic disparities and provide models for real reform.

As part of Saint Luke's involvement in the Equity QI Collaborative, it will work with other hospitals across the country to test new ideas, quantify results and share lessons learned. Program successes will be spread nationwide throughout the initiative and potentially adopted at hospitals and medical centers across the country.

"We are excited to participate in this initiative and take a very close look at the cardiac care we provide, so that our expertise can be shared with other hospitals," Dr. Weaver said. "This is a prestigious national effort and we are honored to have been selected to represent our region."

The quality of health care is poor for many Americans. Research shows specific racial and ethnic groups continue to experience lower-quality health care when compared to white patients.

Representatives of the Saint Luke's Hospital Equity QI Collaborative team will kick off their work by participating in a series of meetings and webinars to learn more about uniform ways to collect data on patient race, ethnicity and preferred language.

In addition to RWJF, the collaborative is being led by the Center for Health Care Quality at The George Washington University Medical Center School of Public Health and Health Services, which serves as the national program office for the AF4Q initiative. To learn more, visit <http://www.rwjf.org/qualityequality/af4q>.

**The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)** focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

**Aligning Forces for Quality: Equity Quality Improvement Collaborative (Equity QI Collaborative)** is an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to improve the quality of cardiac care delivered in hospitals to racial and ethnic minority populations. The Equity QI Collaborative is part of *Aligning Forces for Quality* – the Foundation's signature effort to lift the overall quality of health care in targeted communities, reduce racial and ethnic disparities and provide models of care for national reform.

*Saint Luke's Hospital is a member of Saint Luke's Health System, which consists of 11 area hospitals and several primary and specialty care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.*

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