



**RHQN Newsletter, February 2009**  
**Randy Benson, Executive Director**

### **Quality Improvement Programs Manager Position Open**

The Rural Healthcare Quality Network (RHQN) is searching for qualified candidates to fill the position of Quality Improvement Programs Manager. Qualified candidates do not have to be an RN, but it would be a strong plus. They must have sufficient clinical background to provide expertise in the area.

This position supports implementation of the RHQN's quality improvement and other programs. It implements the RHQN strategic plan in order to provide tangible benefits to RHQN members. The position monitors, communicates, and helps hospitals implement quality improvement initiatives being proposed by governmental agencies (DOH, JC, CMS), employers and payers. It advises RHQN staff and members on appropriate strategies and responses. The RHQN office is located in Seattle, Washington; however, this position requires significant in-state travel. The position reports to the RHQN Executive Director

The position is currently listed as half time but could easily be expanded to full time. The job description and application form are available on the WSHA website at <http://www.wsha.org/page.cfm?ID=jobOpenings>.

### **Smoking Cessation Counseling/Training Web Seminar Series**

To help you address tobacco cessation with your patients, the Washington State Department of Health and the Tobacco Cessation Resource Center are offering a **free webinar series covering hot topics in tobacco cessation**.

All you need to participate in the webinars is a phone and a computer. Topics include:

**- Pharmacotherapy for Tobacco Dependence: What you need to know to help your patients quit.**

March 3, 2009, 12:00 - 1:00 PM PST

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/301371892>

**- How to Get Reimbursed For Helping Your Patients Quit Tobacco.**

April 7, 2009, 12:00 - 1:00 PM PST

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/497002823>

**- Build Sustainable Ways to Identify and Refer Tobacco Users: Best Practices.**

May 5, 2009, 12:00 – 1:00 PM PST

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/727094782>

Each webinar will be presented by an expert speaker on the topic. As this is a series, webinars will build on one another, but can be completed separately. We hope you can join us for this exciting learning opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact TCRC at [TCRC@freeclear.com](mailto:TCRC@freeclear.com) or call 206-876-2560.

## **RHQN WEB SITE ADDS ‘SEARCH’ FEATURE**

Aren't websites wonderful! All that information right there at your fingertips. Unless, of course, the information you need, want and are looking for is not right at your fingertips, or is so buried that it takes forever to find. That can and does happen. The RHQN website is like that. We have so much information to share in so many different areas of expertise that sometimes the information gets lost.

So, with the help of our webmaster, the RHQN website now has a search function to better help you locate the documents, newsletters, templates and tool kits that have evaded you. In the upper right hand corner of our website's front page is the handy, dandy search box. Just enter the name, or phrase that describes what you are looking for, click the 'GO' button, and you're on your way. We will be identifying key words and phrases from each month's Member Conference Call so that you will be able to search for topics of interest in our presentations as well. If you need help navigating our website, call or e-mail the RHQN Executive Assistant, Amy Voros, at 206 216-2550 ([amyv@wsha.org](mailto:amyv@wsha.org)) or me, Randy Benson, at 206 577-1821 ([randyb@wsha.org](mailto:randyb@wsha.org)).

## **REGIONAL AMI TRANSFER PROTOCOL FORUMS COMING**

Four regional forums on implementation of the AMI Transfer Protocols between rural healthcare facilities and urban PCI centers are coming this spring. They are sponsored by the Rural Healthcare Quality Network, the Washington State Department of Health, the Washington State EMS and Trauma Office, the American Heart Association, and the American College of Cardiology. Each meeting will bring together regional rural facilities and urban PCI centers that do not have an AMI Transfer Protocols in place. At each forum there will be a discussion of the science and value of the protocols, a presentation outlining steps for establishment of the protocols and an opportunity to initiate the implementation.

The first regional meeting will be in Pasco on March 25th. Additional meetings will be held April 27<sup>th</sup> in Yakima, May 21<sup>st</sup> in Wenatchee and June 11<sup>th</sup> in Tacoma or Olympia. Letters of invitation and explanation will be sent for each forum. But, you are welcome to attend any of the forums. Further information may be obtained by contacting Randy Benson, Rural Healthcare Quality Network Executive Director, at 206 577-1821 or [randyb@wsha.org](mailto:randyb@wsha.org).