



AMERICA'S ESSENTIAL HOSPITALS

Dear Colleague,

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recently asked you to provide information for the National Hospital Care Survey. As president and CEO of America's Essential Hospitals, I urge you to participate in this important effort.

The NHCS will provide nationally representative data on hospital utilization and general-purpose health care statistics on inpatient care, as well as care delivered in emergency departments and outpatient departments. Hospital administrators, policymakers, and the medical community recognize this survey as a valuable resource for monitoring hospital and ambulatory care in the United States. These new data will inform health care policy discussions on cost of care, inpatient quality and safety, disparities, and access. Your voluntary participation in this survey will help ensure the successful launch of a new, more comprehensive tool for monitoring the future of health care.

NCHS has a long history of protecting the confidentiality of patient records and the facilities that participate in its surveys. All information collected will be the property of the NCHS and kept strictly confidential. Results from the national survey will be published only in an aggregated manner that will not allow identification of any individual hospital or patient.

America's Essential Hospitals endorses this survey and encourages selected respondents, such as you, to participate fully and to provide complete and accurate information. Doing so will help ensure future NHCS data remains useful to hospitals committed to caring for vulnerable populations, as well as the entire health care industry. Your participation is greatly appreciated. I believe the information obtained will be well worth the effort you expend.

Sincerely,

Bruce Siegel, MD, MPH
President and CEO