



# Constituency Section for Metropolitan Hospitals

The Section for Metropolitan Hospitals has a long history within the American Hospital Association (AHA) of providing a unique blend of forum and network. Linking hospital members with shared interests and missions to advise AHA on policy and advocacy activities, and to discuss issues of importance of metropolitan hospitals.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

- Promote ongoing development and implementation of advocacy initiatives that support the nation's metropolitan hospitals.
- Collaborate with constituent leaders on public policy development seeking direct input on short-term initiatives, long-term strategic issues, and representation on AHA's Regional Policy Boards (RPBs).
- Foster relevant member services for metropolitan hospitals including educational programs, teleconferencing, research and technical assistance.
- Develop and maintain liaison relationships with key organizations important to metropolitan hospitals such as state and local hospital associations, America's Essential Hospitals, Association of American Medical Colleges, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration, etc.
- Create opportunities for hospital member peer networking, such as the Health Forum's Leadership Summit, AHA's Annual Membership Meeting, and Section Council meetings.

## POLICYMAKING BODIES

The Section's policymaking bodies are the council and regional policy boards (RPBs).

## METRO COUNCIL AND PRIORITIES

The Metro Section council is comprised of leaders representing some of the country's premier metropolitan hospitals. This council actively advises the AHA on advocacy positions, public policy issues, and member service strategies. A formal liaison relationship exists between the AHA Board of Trustees and the council. Serving as elected representatives of their member peers, council members attend three meetings a year in various geographic locations.



The AHA Section for Metropolitan Hospitals represents the Nation's metropolitan/urban, suburban, public and teaching hospitals. The Section and its council identify priority issues to address and ways to define and focus AHA policy, advocacy and service efforts on behalf of all metropolitan hospitals.

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- Enhancing community health status and coordinated service delivery
- Equitable Medicare and Medicaid payment to hospitals.
- Leading clinical quality improvement and patient safety.
- The impact of health information technology on clinical care and administration.
- Demonstrating and communicating community benefit.
- Aligning incentives for efficient and effective care between hospital and physician providers.
- Balanced allocation of primary care and specialist physicians.

## REGIONAL POLICY BOARDS

The council nominates metropolitan hospital executives to serve on the AHA's nine RPBs.

The purpose of the RPBs :

- Provide input on public policy issues to be considered by the AHA Board of Trustees.
- Serve as ad hoc policy development committees when appropriate.
- Assist in implementing AHA grassroots policy and programs.
- Identify needs unique to a region and assist in developing programs to meet those needs.

The RPBs meet three times a year through a regional network to foster communication between the AHA, its membership, and state hospital associations. Throughout the RPBs, 20 Section-specific delegates and their alternates represent metropolitan hospitals' Section constituent and their interests.

## PEER NETWORKING

Valuable opportunities are provided for hospital leaders to interact and network with one another through special member conference calls on issue-specific topics, the Health Forum's Leadership Summit and the AHA's Annual Membership Meeting. These leadership activities afford hospital executives opportunities to actively discuss and learn from peers in similar hospitals, network and explore initiatives unique to metropolitan hospitals that may ultimately impact hospital-related policy and advocacy strategies.

## SECTION MEMBERSHIP

The Section currently has over 1200 hospital members from across the country. To become a member of the Section, a hospital must:

- Provide a significant amount of Medicare, Medicaid, and uncompensated care;
- Participate in undergraduate and/or graduate medical education programs and research;
- Provide high volumes of ambulatory care;
- Provide specialized services, and;
- Are involved in professional and paraprofessional education and training programs.

A hospital meeting these criteria may become a member of the AHA Section for Metropolitan Hospitals upon request. No additional dues are required.

**Additional information about the Section can be obtained by phone at (312) 422-3317 or on the web at [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org).**