

**AHRQ Emergency Preparedness Web conference:
Planning for an Influenza Pandemic in the Home Health Care Sector
Speaker Biosketches**

Barbara Citarella, RN, BSN, MS, RBC Limited

Barbara Citarella is a leading expert in the area of home care and hospice disaster planning and the President and CEO of RBC Limited. In addition to consulting in all areas of health care, RBC Limited has worked extensively with law enforcement, government agencies, and the private sector with regard to business recovery planning, protection of personnel assets, infrastructure protection, all hazards planning and the Incident Command System. Ms. Citarella is currently certified in homeland security at level V and has been certified by the Center For Domestic Preparedness as an instructor. She is a Board member of the American College of Certification of Homeland Security. Barbara has also served as an expert panel member on pandemic flu for the CDC, American Medical Association, and AHRQ. She was a contributing member to the AHRQ document entitled “Home Health Care During an Influenza Pandemic: Issues and Resources,” released in 2008. Ms. Citarella is the author of numerous articles on the topic and has developed many resources for the home care and hospice practitioner.

Geraldine Coyle, RN, EDD, Emergency Management Strategic Health Care Group, United States Department of Veteran’s Affairs

Geraldine Coyle’s clinical and administrative experience of almost 30 years has been as a nurse practitioner or administrator in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings. Since December 2005 she has been Deputy Chief Consultant Administration/Logistics/Finance at the Emergency Management Strategic Health Care Group (EMSHG) at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Before that she was the Associate Medical Center Director, Nursing Programs and Medical Center Education at the Martinsburg VA for almost seven years. She has held a variety of clinical and administrative certifications. Over the years, she has held clinical faculty appointments at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Professional interests and publications have been in the area of patient safety, employee safety, and emergency preparedness. Within the field of emergency management Dr. Coyle interests have been in medical center preparedness, pandemic influenza and use of telework.

Andrea Hassol, MSPH, Abt Associates

Andrea Hassol is a Principal Associate at Abt Associates. She conducts health services research for Federal agencies. Ms. Hassol specializes in primary data collection, and in synthesizing information from multiple sources to inform healthcare policy. Ms. Hassol has directed studies for CMS, CDC, HRSA and AHRQ, evaluating initiatives such as Medicare payment reform, public outreach and education programs, telemedicine programs, HIT, and immunization programs. Ms. Hassol currently oversees two AHRQ master contracts, Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Networks (ACTION) and Domain 2 of the HIT National Resource Center. Since 2002 Ms. Hassol has directed a number of Emergency Preparedness projects funded by AHRQ and ASPR, including expanding hospital surge capacity through the use of former (shuttered) hospitals, coding and analyzing NDMS records from hurricane Katrina to understand the care needs of that displaced population, supporting the development of regional emergency planning coalitions, and the project she will speak about in the Web conference: Models and tools to support planning and response for pandemic and all-hazards preparedness. Ms. Hassol received a Masters in Science of Public Health from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Josh Petty, MBA, *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

Josh Petty is a Health Communication Specialist in the National Center for Health Marketing at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A former management consultant and marketing professional in the hospital arena, Josh has been producing positive results in the healthcare industry since he graduated from Arizona State University in 2000. In 2006, Josh had the opportunity to provide marketing and communication consultation to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the National Center for Health Marketing. He provides marketing expertise which has helped the efforts of: The Surgeon General, COTPER: Deployment Steering Committee, National Center for Public Health Genomics, Growing Great in Environmental Health and Injury Prevention, The Guide to Community Preventive Services, The Health Protection Goals, particularly, the Healthy Homes Goal team, and pandemic flu preparedness materials. Mr. Petty received a Masters in Business Administration from the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Alexis Silver, *Home Care Association of New York State*

Alexis Silver is the Vice President of Policy and Clinical Affairs at the Home Care Association of New York State where she oversees programs related to emergency preparedness, home telehealth, and technology and quality initiatives. She is chairman of the planning committee for the State of New York's Special Needs Sheltering Committee, a member of the New York State Disaster Preparedness Commission Human Services Steering Committee. Ms. Silver travels throughout New York State educating and working with home care providers, and both State and county emergency management organizations.

Samantha Walker, PhD, *ICF Macro International*

Dr. Samantha Walker brings over 12 years of research experience to her work with Macro International as a Senior Project Manager. She has extensive knowledge and research in the areas of social marketing, influence processes, attitudes, perceptions, and health behavior. Her experience includes project management, program evaluation, research design, and data analysis in both health and marketing research settings. She has worked with a full range of survey and evaluation methodologies and specializes in communications strategies, branding programs, strategic marketing campaigns, and media and social influence research. Additionally, Dr. Walker has conducted research on the role of parental monitoring and adolescent high risk health behavior. Working with CDC behavioral scientists, she provides expertise on research design and analysis to a wide range of projects including pandemic influenza message testing, USDA social marketing campaigns, birth defects, cognitive impairment, ovarian cancer, and colorectal cancer. Dr. Walker holds a PhD in Social Psychology.