



## **Leslie Norwalk Joins Sound Inpatient Physicians' Board of Directors**

### **Former CMS Acting Administrator Provides Strategic Insight to Hospitalist Organization**

September 9, 2009 (TACOMA, Wash. - WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Business Wire - Leslie Norwalk, a nationally recognized expert on Medicare and healthcare legal issues, has recently joined the board of directors of Sound Inpatient Physicians, a leading hospitalist organization working to create the next generation of hospital inpatient care.

Ms. Norwalk was formerly the Acting Administrator for the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and is credited with playing a central role in the successful implementation of the reforms to Medicare & Medicaid including the prescription drug benefit program. She was responsible for the CMS budget, which accounts for \$1 out of every \$3 spent on healthcare in the United States.

"Leslie Norwalk's experience encompasses the entire spectrum of healthcare today and is a great asset as we help to transform healthcare delivery," notes Robert Bessler, M.D., president and CEO of Sound Inpatient Physicians. "Her expertise will benefit the continued development of hospital medicine and Sound's model. We focus on driving clinical process excellence in our hospitals to improve quality, utilization and satisfaction for our patients and hospital partners."

Sound's model for hospitalist medicine focuses on the people, processes and technologies necessary to optimize clinical workflow and drive measurable improvements in quality, efficiency and patient satisfaction. Sound's proprietary communication and technology platform is utilized by more than 500 hospitalists and its hospitalist institute trains good physicians to become effective hospitalists.

Ms. Norwalk is strategic advisor to the law firm of Epstein Becker & Green, P.C., Washington, D.C. Ms. Norwalk holds a jurist doctorate from George Mason University School of Law and a bachelor's degree, cum laude, in economics and international relations from Wellesley College.

Hospital medicine is the fastest growing medical specialty in America with over 30,000 hospitalist physicians practicing today. Sound's hospitalists are part of a nationwide team that implements clinical processes and technologies designed to drive improvements in quality and reduce healthcare costs. Sound's teams encompass more than 400 physicians serving over 40 hospitals and more than 60 sub-acute care centers.

### **About Sound Inpatient Physicians**

Sound Inpatient Physicians, Inc., a leading hospitalist company, focuses on improving the quality of inpatient hospital care. Hospitalists coordinate a patient's hospitalization course with specialist physicians, nurses and hospital case managers, as well as the community of primary care physicians. Through a combination of people, proprietary processes and technologies, Sound Inpatient Physicians uniquely addresses clinical, administrative and fiscal challenges facing our nation's healthcare delivery system in acute-care and skilled nursing facilities. To learn more, visit: [www.soundphysicians.com](http://www.soundphysicians.com)

Media Contact: Lynn Purdy, VP Marketing, Sound Inpatient Physicians, [lpurdy@soundphysician.com](mailto:lpurdy@soundphysician.com) 1-888-682-1710