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Marilyn Szekendi is director of quality research at UHC, a broad alliance of US academic medical centers and their affiliated hospitals. Dr. Szekendi's current research focuses on end-of-life care and the characteristics of high-performing organizations. Dr. Szekendi has held positions in clinical quality improvement and patient safety since 2001. She has more than 15 years of experience as an advanced practice nurse in liver transplantation and other surgical specialties. Her educational background includes a BA from Purdue University, an MSN from Yale University, and a PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago.