

NEWS RELEASE

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Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety Recognizes Local Patient Safety “Heroes”

Representatives from Each Area Hospital Recognized for Their Outstanding Work; National Experts Provide Feedback to Local Initiatives

INDIANAPOLIS—November 13, 2007--The Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety (Coalition) recognized last evening the winners of its 2007 Patient Safety Hero Awards.

In its third year, the awards are given to individuals or groups at each member hospital that have championed a specific patient safety project. The awards were presented in conjunction with a day-long Executive Session for Patient Safety being held by the Coalition at the Lilly Corporate Center in downtown Indianapolis.

The winners are:

- Clarian Health – Keith Lillemoe, M.D. and Mary Ross, R.N. Lillemoe led the organization to emphasize the importance of Joint Commission requirements as they relate to the Operating Room and patient safety. Ross is being recognized for her work in Safe Passage, Clarian’s patient safety program.
- Community Health Network – Ventilator Acquired Pneumonia Team is being recognized for the eradication of ventilator-acquired pneumonia for at least one year. Team leaders accepting the award for Community Hospitals North, East, South and The Indiana Heart Hospital, respectively, are: Elsie Broda, R.N., clinical director; Dina Thompson, R.N., clinical manager; Theresa Shively, R.N., clinical manager; and Jamie Pittman, R.N., director, MICU.
- Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center – Anticoagulation Team, led by the hospital’s pharmacy and Barcode Medication Administration coordinator, is being recognized for developing and monitoring the success of standardizing the anticoagulation process within the facility.
- St. Francis Hospital and Health Services – The Emergency Heart Attack Response Team, developed at St. Francis Hospital, has dramatically improved the time from emergency diagnosis to lifesaving treatment for patients suffering heart attacks. Umesh Khot, M.D., and Michele Johnson led the effort.

- St. Vincent Health – Creation of Foley Free Zones, by Diana Jones, R.N. and Craig Wilson, M.D. Jones and Dr. Wilson collaborated to identify ways to reduce catheter-associated urinary tract infections throughout the faith-based health care provider. By creating a Foley Free Zone, nurses are able to identify specific criteria to prevent and remove unnecessary catheters.
- Wishard Health Services – Insulin Six Sigma Team, led by James Fuller and Lee Ann Blue. Working with a team from Eli Lilly and Company, the Wishard Team conducted a process improvement exercise to address safety around the use of insulin in hospitals.

The Executive Session brought together leaders from the city's major hospital networks and other local health care leaders, along with national patient safety experts. Local representatives presented the Coalition patient safety projects to these experts. The experts provided reaction and feedback of these projects in comparison to national efforts.

The Coalition patient safety projects are: analyzing processes used to dispense high alert drugs, implementing a site marking and time-out policy, root cause analysis review, patient safety round programs, implementing standardized abbreviations and participating in the Institute for Health Improvement 100,000 Lives Campaign.

The expert panel was led by James Conway, Senior Vice President of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, a not-for-profit organization leading the improvement of health care throughout the world. Conway participates on several national health and safety committees, including the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Identifying and Preventing Medication Errors. He previously was the COO of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

The Coalition is comprised of chief executive, medical, nursing and pharmacy officers from Indianapolis-area hospitals. In addition, there is participation by entities such as Eli Lilly and Company, WellPoint, Inc., Indiana University, Purdue University, Regenstrief Institute, Inc.

Since being founded in 2003, the Coalition provides a forum for Indianapolis-area hospitals to share information about 'best practices' and work together to solve the most concerning patient safety issues in Indianapolis hospitals in a non-punitive setting.

About the Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety:

The Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety, formed in 2003, is a non-profit, public-private partnership of health care leaders committed to advancing patient safety efforts. Its membership includes Indianapolis-area hospital systems, as well as participants who purchase, insure, support or educate the health care community. Through their shared vision, the Indianapolis health care community has accelerated the pace of patient safety improvement in Indianapolis.

www.indypatientsafety.org.