

NEWS RELEASE

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Local Patient Safety “Heroes” Recognized by Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety

Representatives from member hospitals recognized for commitment to safety culture, impact on patients and sustainability.

INDIANAPOLIS—December 1, 2008--The Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety (Coalition) recognized the winners of its 2008 Patient Safety Hero Awards at its annual luncheon. The luncheon also marked the group’s fifth anniversary.

Awards were also presented to the Coalition’s co-founders, Dr. Glenn Bingle and Dr. Donald J. Kerner, for their visionary leadership in efforts to improve patient safety in the Indianapolis-area. Dr. Bingle serves as the chairman of the Coalition and is Community Health Network’s chief medical officer and vice president for medical and academic affairs. Dr. Kerner is vice chairman of the Coalition and is St. Francis Hospital & Health Centers’ associate chief medical officer.

The Patient Safety Hero awards are given to individuals or groups at each member hospital that have championed a specific patient safety project.

The winners are:

- Clarian Health – Quality and Patient Safety team at Riley Hospital for Children, led by Marilyn Cox. Recently, Cox designed a culture survey initiative around IV assessments and launched an Appreciative Inquiry effort to assess aspects of the program that have promise for the future. This effort is a result of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s Culture of Safety Survey.
- Community Health Network – Private Room Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Team at Community Hospital North, led by Denise Hartman. This team oversaw research, design development, construction and operation of a private room neonatal intensive care unit. Enhanced safety outcomes include: decreased risk of infection, decreased risk of medication errors, and decreased stimuli to neurologically immature patients.
- Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center – Surgical Team for Cardiac Surgery Glucose Control. The goal of this team is to have all postoperative patient glucose under control through regular monitoring and other protocols. Patients with proper post-surgical glucose control increased to significantly during project timeline.
- St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers – The Medication Event and Decision Support Team, led by Dr. Charles E. Kinsella and Therese

Staublin at the Beech Grove, Indianapolis and Mooresville campuses, has been instrumental in promoting medication safety. Accomplishments of the team include establishing a standardized process for systematic reporting, tracking, documentation and analysis of medication errors and adopting a system-wide approach to analyze adverse events and trends across incidents.

- St. Vincent Health – Implementation of Hourly Rounding, led by Eileen Schneider. Hourly Rounding is a house-wide initiative at all St. Vincent Indianapolis inpatient units and is focused on asking patients and their families specific questions related to pain, position, personal needs and possessions. Results of Hourly Rounding have demonstrated increased patient and associate satisfaction and a reduced number of falls.
- Suburban Health Organization (SHO) – Dr. Lynn Bowers' role as a dedicated leader in the area of patient safety is evidenced in three projects. Dr. Bowers created and leads the SHO 'External Peer Review Program'; served as lead advocate for implementing an office-based safety risk assessment across SHO employed practices; and was instrumental in promoting the adoption of an inter-hospital incident reporting system.
- Wishard Health Services – The Diversion Avoidance Team, led by Tracy Martin, was formed to decrease or eliminate the Wishard emergency department diversion rate. Through a quality improvement process that identified areas for immediate success, the team decreased the diversion rate significantly in 2007 and has sustained this lowered diversion rate throughout 2008.

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

Since being founded in 2003, the Coalition provides a forum for area hospitals to share information about 'best practices' and work together to solve the most concerning patient safety issues 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 and surrounding county hospital systems, as well as participants who purchase, insure, support or educate the health care community. Through their shared vision, the region's health care community has accelerated the pace of patient safety improvement.

www.indypatientsafety.org.