



CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SYSTEM

Immediate Release

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Christiana Care Health System Recognized with Two Kimberly Clark HAI Watchdog Awards

(WILMINGTON, Del. – July 25) [Christiana Care Health System](#) has been recognized with two HAI Watchdog Awards, a national contest by Kimberly-Clark that recognizes the efforts of healthcare professionals working together to prevent healthcare-associated infections through staff and patient education and the use of best practices. Christiana Care was the only health system in the nation to receive more than one HAI Watchdog Award.

Christiana Care was recognized in the “health care system” category for a successful, multi-pronged effort to reduce the rate of a range of healthcare-associated infections, including ventilator associated pneumonia, clostridium difficile and central line-associated bloodstream infections. Christiana Care’s [Wilmington Hospital](#) was recognized in the “fewer than 300 beds” category for its successful effort in eliminating Central Line-associated Blood Stream Infections.

“These recognitions are reflective of our commitment of working together to significantly reduce the risk of infection and harm to our patients,” said Marci Drees, M.D., the infection prevention officer and hospital epidemiologist for Christiana Care. “Every member of our team shares the common pursuit to investigate any healthcare-associated infection or any other issue that has even the slightest potential for harm. By taking these action steps, we frequently have been able to uncover issues that have the potential to cause harm before they occur.”

Christiana Care’s system-wide prevention program to protect patients from healthcare-associated infections included the national Comprehensive Unit Safety Program in the intensive care units, emergency departments and operating rooms that resulted in significant reduction in rates of Central Line-associated Blood Stream Infections, ventilator associated pneumonia and surgical site infections prevented through near perfect compliance with the Surgical Care Improvement Project process measures. Christiana Care’s program also includes the creation of an award-winning educational video on infection prevention. Overall hospital infection rates have dropped more than 50 percent and have generated an estimated savings of nearly \$10 million.

Wilmington Hospital's Intensive Care Unit also joined the CUSP initiative to reduce infections. Through CUSP, the interdisciplinary unit staff was able to focus on fostering a culture of patient safety, consistently implementing evidence-based practices, monitoring and transparency of infection rates. Wilmington Hospital has not experienced a single Central Line-associated Blood Stream Infection since August 2011. Christiana Care now uses Value Improvement Teams – an initiative that encompasses the CUSP practices – in all inpatient care units at both Christiana Hospital and Wilmington Hospital.

“Clinicians across the U.S. and throughout the world work hard to prevent HAIs on a daily basis. The HAI Watchdog Awards program recognizes those champions who go above and beyond to document and share their strategies for success,” said Dr. William Jarvis, former Director of the Office of Extramural Research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Infectious Diseases. “This year's recipients symbolize the best in new ideas around HAI prevention.”

The panel-judged entries were reviewed by healthcare professionals with expertise in infection prevention and evaluated based on innovation and impact of program results. The clinician's choice category recognizes education and awareness programs with non-measurable results and the winner was selected by online public voting of fellow healthcare professionals.

“HAI prevention is a facility-wide initiative requiring engagement from all departments, personnel and disciplines,” said Joanne Bauer, President, Kimberly-Clark Health Care, which created the HAI WATCHDOG Awards in recognition of HAI champions who are making a difference in reducing and preventing these serious, often life-threatening infections.

Christiana Care Health System, headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware, is one of the country's largest health care providers, ranking 21st in the nation for hospital admissions. Christiana Care is a major teaching hospital with two campuses and more than 250 Medical-Dental residents and fellows. Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services. The system is home to Delaware's only Level I trauma center, the only center of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care also features a Level 3 neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in the state to offer this level of care for newborns.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/howeare.

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