



## Illinois Health and Hospital Association

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### **IHA Recognizes Illinois Hospitals and Health Systems for Patient Safety Achievements**

Naperville—Because of five exceptional Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) members, patients in Illinois are benefiting from improved integration of behavioral health services and palliative care services, reduced infection rates and better healthcare quality through decreased surgical scope repair costs. In thanks for their hard work on behalf of the communities they serve, IHA's Institute for Innovations in Care and Quality presented these five hospitals and health systems with its 2017 Quality Excellence Achievement Awards on Sept. 13, during IHA's annual Leadership Summit. Now in its seventh year, the awards recognize Illinois hospitals and health systems for maximizing their performance to ensure high-quality, safe and coordinated care.

#### **Outstanding Achievement Category**

**HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield**, for "Increasing Quality for Our Patients by Reducing Scope Repair Costs by 54 Percent Using Lean Improvements." After analysis revealed that 80 percent of its monthly surgical repair costs were due to improper scope handling, HSHS St. John's Hospital implemented reforms to significantly reduce these costs, including an ongoing in-service schedule, enhanced partnership with surgeons and residents, improved storage and transport devices, and a new campaign to visually demonstrate proper equipment handling.

#### **Community Partnership Category**

**Memorial Health System, Springfield**, for "Integration of Behavioral Health Staff Improves Patient Outcomes 74 Percent and Contributes to 13 Percent Neighborhood Crime Reduction." To improve access to behavioral healthcare and appropriate assessments in a nearby low-income neighborhood, Memorial Health System embedded behavioral health staff into its primary care provider network, local schools and community partner clinics, leading to a 13 percent reduction in police calls to the neighborhood, among other accomplishments.

#### **Patient Safety Category**

**Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana**, for "Chasing Zero: A Multidisciplinary Evidence-Based Approach to CLABSI Reduction and Prevention." By implementing evidence-based interventions, a multidisciplinary team at Carle Foundation Hospital reduced the hospital's central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) rate by 61 percent compared to the previous year.

### **Small and Rural Category**

**OSF St. Mary Medical Center, Galesburg**, for “Reduction of Hospital-Acquired *Clostridium difficile* (*C. diff*) Rates.” A range of interventions, including use of an algorithm to assist with appropriate patient identification for specimen testing, allowed OSF St. Mary Medical Center to reduce its *C. diff* rate from 25.8 infections per 10,000 patient days to 4.98 infections per 10,000 patient days.

### **Tim Philipp Award for Excellence in Palliative Care**

**Swedish Covenant Hospital, Chicago**, for “Implementation of an Outpatient Palliative Care Clinic as Part of an Integrated Cancer Care Center.” After establishing a weekly outpatient palliative care clinic to treat cancer patients from diagnosis through survivorship, Swedish Covenant Hospital achieved both an increase in the number of advance directives completed and, for those with palliative intervention, an above average number of days between last cancer treatment and time of death.

“The accomplishments of this year’s award recipients are an inspiration for IHA, our members and the Illinois healthcare community,” said A.J. Wilhelmi, President and CEO, IHA. “All of our member hospitals strive to provide the highest quality of care for their communities while maximizing their resources, and this recognition is an important part of our work in supporting their efforts.”

Forty-three hospitals and health systems from across the state submitted 59 applications for consideration in the seventh annual Quality Excellence Achievement Awards. Their projects focused on a diverse array of topics, including improving communication between care teams, reducing wait times, protecting staff from injury, bolstering patient support systems, and more. More than 20 nationally recognized healthcare quality experts evaluated submissions based on achieving progress in implementing the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s Triple Aim—enhancing the patient experience, improving population health and reducing healthcare costs—and the Institute of Medicine’s six aims for improvement—making the healthcare system safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable.

“The Quality Excellence Achievement Awards highlight innovations that can lead to better outcomes both locally and statewide,” said Cathy Grossi, Vice President of Quality, Safety and Health Policy, IHA. “Improving the healthcare system is a team effort, and we hope that hospitals in Illinois and elsewhere can use these initiatives as a starting point for their own projects and to enhance their ongoing quality improvement efforts.”

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Quality Excellence Achievement Awards and the Institute for Innovations in Care and Quality’s other patient safety initiatives.

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**About IHA’s Institute for Innovations in Care and Quality**

The Institute is a strategic center actively engaged in implementing evidence-based quality and safety initiatives while creating innovative member programs to measurably strengthen the quality of healthcare across Illinois. It aims to inform, empower and lead IHA members in advancing Illinois as a person-centered, national model for high-value healthcare.

### **About IHA**

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association, with offices in Chicago, Naperville, Springfield, and Washington, D.C., advocates for Illinois' more than 200 hospitals and nearly 50 health systems as they serve their patients and communities. IHA members provide a broad range of services—not just within their walls, but across the continuum of healthcare and in their communities. Reflecting the diversity of the state, IHA members consist of nonprofit, investor-owned and public hospitals in the following categories: community, safety net, rural, critical access, specialty, and teaching hospitals, including academic medical centers. For more information, see [www.team-iha.org](http://www.team-iha.org). Like IHA on [Facebook](#). Follow IHA on [Twitter](#).