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New Mexico Acute Care Hospitals Awarded Top Honor in Hospital Quality
Hospitals met rigorous national goals for improving patient safety

Albuquerque, N.M. – October 4, 2019 – Five of New Mexico’s largest hospitals earned the Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN) Award, one of New Mexico Hospital Association’s premier honors for hospital quality. These hospitals were honored for projects that enlisted multiple teams and approaches to reduce hospital readmissions, the occurrence of infections and adverse drug events. The awards were presented in a ceremony at the 74th Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Hospital Association (NMHA) in Albuquerque.

The HIIN General Acute Care Hospital awardees are: Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center (Alamogordo), Lovelace Women’s Hospital (Albuquerque), Memorial Medical Center (Las Cruces), Presbyterian Rust Medical Center (Rio Rancho) and University of New Mexico Hospital (Albuquerque).

“New Mexico hospitals’ performance, throughout the HIIN project, has been nothing short of extraordinary,” said John Harris, NMHA board member and CEO of Memorial Medical Center in Las Cruces, N.M.

Collectively, all 36 New Mexico acute care hospitals have met the 20 percent overall reduction goal of inpatient harm. These reductions translate into over 5,500 prevented patient harms, more than 476 lives saved, and over $70 million in healthcare cost savings in New Mexico.

Since 2016, 36 New Mexico acute care hospitals have participated in HIIN quality and patient safety programs along with 1,600 hospitals across the county. HIIN is two-year grant through the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that set aggressive goals to reduce inpatient harms by 20 percent and readmissions by 12 percent by 2019. NMHA administers the New Mexico HIIN with the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) of the American Hospital Association (AHA).

The NMHA’s Quality Committee selected the awardees using a point system that recognized overall performance, improvement and maintenance of zero patient harms over the past 12 months. Programs like HIIN engage hospital leadership and clinicians at all levels to build on successes and spread best practices in education and staff training, mentorship, monitoring, data collection and analysis and governance across the state.

2019 HIIN General Acute Care Hospital Awardees
- Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center: Reduced opioid adverse drug events by 79 percent, catheter associated infections by 85 percent and surgical site infections by over 40 percent.
• Lovelace Women’s Hospital: Reduced C. diff infections by 44 percent, anticoagulation adverse drug events by 84 percent and had zero harm events in central line and catheter associated infections.

• Memorial Medical Center: Reduced patient falls by over 40 percent, C. diff infections by almost 80 percent and reduced central line blood stream infections by over 50 percent.

• Presbyterian Rust Medical Center: Reduced catheter associated infections by over 20 percent, central line infections by over 40 percent and reduced C. diff infections by almost 30 percent.

• University of New Mexico Hospital: Reduced hospital readmissions by over 30 percent, central line infections by over 50 percent, and reduced overall total patient harm by almost 30 percent.

“Commitment to quality and patient safety is central to the mission of NMHA member hospitals,” said Jeff Dye, NMHA president and CEO. “These hospitals’ comprehensive plans, put into action, have made them leaders in the state and nation in fostering patient safety and quality,”

Awards were presented by Kaye Green, New Mexico Rural Hospital Network chair and CEO of Roosevelt General Hospital in Portales, N.M.

For more on strides New Mexico hospitals have made in advancing quality and patient safety in their communities, listen to the NMHA Advancing Quality & Patient Safety Podcast at https://anchor.fm/nmha. Podcast guests include healthcare and clinical experts across our state.

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New Mexico Hospital Association (NMHA) represents 46 New Mexico hospitals, health networks, ambulatory facilities, home health agencies and affiliate groups on state and federal legislative and regulatory public policy issues. NMHA partners with its members and others to improve, through best practices and innovation, the health status of New Mexico residents. It is an authoritative source for hospital data used in public policy initiatives. For over five decades, NMHA has advocated for the common good and collective interests of its members and patients, in an ever-changing health care environment.

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