Leading the Quest for Quality

2010 PROFILES IN QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY

HANYS Quality Institute
The Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) and its members are committed to innovative practices and continuous improvement in quality, safety, and efficacy of care. HANYS’ Pinnacle Award for Quality and Patient Safety is one forum to recognize organizations playing a leading role in promoting these works.

Leading the Quest for Quality: 2010 Profiles in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety is a compendium of submissions for HANYS’ Pinnacle Award for Quality and Patient Safety that met publication standards. Each profile includes a program description, outcomes, and lessons learned that provide insight into what it takes to make positive change occur.

There were winners in four categories: multi-entity, large hospital, small hospital, and specialty or division-based. In addition, HANYS recognized submissions in the top 10th percentile based on the scoring guidelines.

HANYS congratulates and thanks all of our members for their willingness to share their ideas, experiences, and successes. We encourage all members to take advantage of the information in this publication as a strategy to inform and accelerate efforts to improve quality and patient safety.

For more information about the Pinnacle Award for Quality and Patient Safety, please contact Nancy Landor, Senior Director of Strategic Quality Initiatives, at (518) 431-7685 or at nlandor@hanys.org.
VAP Prevention in a Community Hospital Setting is Sustainable and Can Be Like Breathing: “Automatic and Painless”  
*St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center*

**CONTACT:** Catherine Shannon, F.N.P.-B.C., C.I.C. Director, Infection Prevention and Employee Health Services; (631) 862-3541; catherine.shannon@chsl.org

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center established an initiative to decrease the ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) rate in its critical care step-down units. A risk assessment was performed to evaluate hand hygiene compliance, sedation interruption, readiness to wean, maintenance of semi-recumbent positioning, and oral care, and all elements of the VAP “bundle.”

The following practices were instituted:

- A prepackaged oral hygiene kit is used every four hours and a Chlorhexidine rinse is used every 12 hours;
- Families and visitors are encouraged to take an active role in VAP prevention;
- Daily assessments of necessity for sedation and readiness to wean; and
- A flow sheet to ensure systematic use of the bundle elements and standardized shift handoffs.

**OUTCOMES**

- VAP has been eliminated on the respiratory step-down unit since January 2008.
- There was a sustained decrease in the incidence of VAP in the critical care unit in 2008 and 2009.
- Professional accountability for hand hygiene was instituted.
- This initiative resulted in high levels of satisfaction for all involved.
- The institution realized cost savings of about $280,000.
- Mortality decreased, with three lives saved, according to statistics.

**LESSONS LEARNED**

- Patient outcome improvements were realized through collaboration among all team members, from senior leadership to staff.
- Sustaining improved outcomes is possible when changes become part of the culture.
- Small changes to patient care can improve patient outcomes, save lives, and are cost effective.
SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NANCEE L. BENDER, PH.D., R.N., a Consultant with Joint Commission Resources, has a diverse background in nursing, health care administration, education, research, and performance improvement, and served as the Executive Director for Ambulatory Accreditation for The Joint Commission. She currently teaches the use of “tracer” methods as a performance improvement intervention. Dr. Bender served as a professor in an academic faculty appointment at the University of Rochester, School of Nursing. While pursuing research interests in the coordination of care and performance improvement for quality, cost, and patient safety outcomes, she taught leadership, patient safety, population health, ethics and public policy, and evidence-based quality improvement practices. She served as the Principle Investigator for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded program that paired nursing graduate students and medical students on performance improvement planning and implementation teams. She served on solution teams for the World Health Organization and The Joint Commission focusing on prevention of pressure ulcers and patient falls prevention. Dr. Bender received her Bachelor’s and Master’s of Nursing degrees from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Rochester.

DR. MAULIK S. JOSHI, DR.P.H. is President of the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) and Senior Vice President for Research at the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET conducts applied research in improving quality and patient safety, reducing costs, eliminating health disparities, improving leadership and governance, payment reform, and care coordination. Dr. Joshi also leads Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence TM, AHA’s strategy to accelerate performance improvement and support health reform implementation. Before joining HRET, Dr. Joshi served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement and was previously a senior advisor for the office of the director at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Dr. Joshi served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Delmarva Foundation. Before that, he served as Vice President at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and Senior Director of Quality for the University of Pennsylvania Health System. Dr. Joshi is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal for Healthcare Quality. He also co-edited The Healthcare Quality Book: Vision, Strategy and Tools, and authored Healthcare Transformation: A Guide for the Hospital Board Member. Dr. Joshi has a Doctorate in Public Health and a Master’s degree in health services administration from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Lafayette College.

ANDREA KABCENELL, R.N., M.P.H. is Vice President at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), where she serves on the research and demonstration team and leads a portfolio of programs to improve performance in hospitals. Since 1995, she has directed Breakthrough Series Collaboratives and other quality improvement programs, including Pursuing Perfection, a national demonstration funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation designed to show that near perfect, leading-edge performance is possible in health care. Before joining IHI, Ms. Kabcenell was a senior research associate in Cornell University’s Department of Policy, Analysis, and Management focusing on chronic illness care, quality, and diffusion of innovation. She also served for four years as Program Officer at The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Ms. Kabcenell received her undergraduate degree and graduate degree in public health from the University of Michigan.

LYNN LEIGHTON, R.N., M.H.A. is Vice President, Health Services for the Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, a statewide trade association that represents Pennsylvania hospitals and health systems with policymakers and other trade and professional associations. In this position, Ms. Leighton works with Pennsylvania’s hospitals and other stakeholders to support the development of health care policy with respect to health care quality, patient safety, delivery system accountability, professional supply, professional practice, public health, and workforce development. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing from Pennsylvania State University and a Master’s degree in Health Services Administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

ARTHUR A. LEVIN, M.P.H. is co-founder and Director of the Center for Medical Consumers, a New York City-based nonprofit organization committed to informed consumer and patient health care decision-making, patient safety, evidence-based, high-quality medicine, and health system transparency. Mr. Levin was a member of the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) Committee on the Quality of Health Care that published the To Err is Human and Crossing the Quality Chasm reports. He serves on the IOM committee that made recommendations to Congress in IOM’s Leadership Through Example report, and was a member of the committee that issued Opportunities for Coordination and Clarity to Advance the National Health Information Agenda and Knowing What Works in Health Care: A Roadmap for the Nation. Mr. Levin is co-chair of the National Committee for Quality Assurance Committee on Performance Measures that is charged with developing performance measures applicable to health plans. At the state level, he has served on numerous state health department task forces and workgroups focused on safety, quality, informed consent, and bioethics concerns. Recently, he served on a state policy workgroup for office-based surgery. He also serves on the board of Taconic Health Information Network and Community, a not-for-profit health information organization in the mid-Hudson Valley, and is a founding board member of the New York State E-Health Collaborative. Mr. Levin earned his Master of Public Health degree from Columbia University’s School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Reed College.

DR. VAHE KAZANDJIAN is the President of The Center for Performance Sciences, a Maryland-based outcomes research center that develops quality measurement and evaluation strategies in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. He is the original architect of, and remains responsible for, the Maryland Quality Indicator Project (QIP), the largest indicator project of its kind in the world. He is Adjunct Professor of the Health Policy and Management Department of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. In addition, Dr. Kazandjian is the author of four textbooks on indicator development and quality of care. He is an epidemiologist by training and served as Advisor to the World Bank for Latin America, USAID for Africa, and is currently Advisor to the World Health Organization’s European office in Barcelona. In 2002, Dr. Kazandjian was named President of LogicQual Research Institute, Inc., a not-for-profit organization dedicated to conducting research on clinical practice and accountability. From 2005 to 2010, Dr. Kazandjian served as the Principal Investigator for a quality-based reimbursement initiative by Maryland’s Health Services Cost Review Commission. He has published extensively in clinical and health services peer review journals and books on the development of clinical protocols, indicators of quality, small area variation analysis, and longitudinal epidemiological studies. He is also a published poet and novelist. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and his Doctorate from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Department of Medical Care Organization and Policy, School of Public Health.