IHA’s Quality Care Institute established its first annual Quality Excellence Achievement Awards recognizing Illinois hospital accomplishments for advancing quality patient care in 2011. In May, members were invited to submit their achievements in two distinct award categories: IHA Pledge Quality Achievement Award and IHA Innovation in Quality Award.

The IHA Pledge Quality Achievement Award honors hospitals that have shown significant improvement efforts meeting the goals of IHA’s *Raising the Bar* campaign. The campaign calls for hospitals to engage in specific interventions over the next three years to reduce hospital readmissions and hospital-acquired infections and other complications. Hospitals pledge to work to develop and collaborate on initiatives and programs that will:

- Reduce 30-day hospital readmission rates for congestive heart failure, heart attack and pneumonia; and
- Reduce hospital-acquired conditions and infections such as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), C. difficile, central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), surgical-site infections, and deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism following certain orthopedic procedures.

The IHA Innovation in Quality Award recognizes hospitals that have demonstrated innovative approaches addressing elements of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s (IHI) *Triple Aim*. The IHI Triple Aim program seeks to improve the health of the population; enhance the patient experience of care; and reduce or control the per capita cost of care.

More than 50 quality improvement projects were submitted by 36 hospitals from across the state. Twenty nationally-recognized quality improvement leaders representing a variety of health care organizations, associations and universities comprised a panel that carefully reviewed all entries. Seven winners from six Illinois hospitals and health systems representing urban, rural, Medicaid/safety net, and specialty hospitals were selected and recognized at the IHA Leadership Summit on September 20-21.

Submissions for the second annual Quality Excellence Achievement Awards will be accepted in spring 2012.
CALL FOR ENTRIES
MAY 2012

Be sure to watch for this opportunity to be recognized and celebrated for your hospital’s achievements in advancing patient care.

www.ihqualitycare.org
Award category—Urban

Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana

Inpatient Respiratory Failure Prevention through Appropriate Identification and Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnea

Award category—Rural

Good Samaritan Regional Health Center, Mount Vernon

Achieving the Triple Aim: Leveraging and Learning from Top Performers to Accelerate Improvements

Award category—Safety Net

Sinai Health System, Chicago

Patient Navigation Program – An Avon Foundation Safety-Net Project

Award category—Specialty

Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital & Clinics, Wheaton

Rehabilitation Patient Journey to Discharge

The following pages contain summaries of the award recipient’s projects.
Award Recipient—Safety Net Category

Hospital/System: Sinai Health System, Chicago

Contact: Kristi Allgood
Epidemiologist II
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Project Title: Patient Navigation Program – An Avon Foundation Safety-Net Project

Three patient navigators are used to advocate on behalf of women with abnormal breast findings on mammograms. The main goals of the program are to remove barriers to making appointments (e.g. transportation), not knowing the next steps in care, and financial issues. In addition, navigators are tasked with reducing loss to follow-up and improve timeliness of receiving care. They navigate the patient until the radiologist recommends annual follow-up or a cancer is diagnosed. Once a cancer is diagnosed, navigators also coordinate consults with treating physicians and any pre-surgical testing.

Website: http://www.sinai.org