FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2013

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Decreasing Infections, Reducing Falls, Maximizing Prevention, Improving Care: A Formula for Success for 6 Hospitals Earning ANA’s Award for Nursing Quality

SILVER SPRING, MD – For some hospitals, improving the quality of nursing services that directly affect patient outcomes is ingrained in their operations.

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital reduced its patient falls rate by more than 50 percent for a unit with adults with cardiac-related diseases combined with other conditions. Staff performed “safety huddles” beginning each shift to identify risks and implemented prevention strategies, such as bed alarms and risk mitigation during hourly nursing rounds.

Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley decreased its blood stream infection rate for very low birth weight infants, a leading cause of disease and death for premature babies, by 30 percent by implementing evidence-based best practices for central venous catheter insertion and maintenance processes across its five neonatal sites.

And Rose Medical Center significantly reduced ventilator-associated pneumonia, the leading cause of death resulting from hospital-acquired infections, from 17 cases in 2008-09 to just one case in 2011-12. The staff improved team-based oral care standards and implemented a series of interventions proven to reduce infection rates.

Robert Wood Johnson, Akron Children’s, and Rose are among six hospitals receiving the NDNQI Award for Outstanding Nursing Quality® today at the American Nurses Association’s (ANA) Nursing Quality Conference™ in Atlanta. The award winners participate in ANA’s National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators® (NDNQI®), the nation’s most comprehensive database of nursing performance measures.

“The nurses recognize that our health care system is becoming more focused on performance standards and patient outcomes. That’s how it should be, that’s how nurses approach their work, and that’s what this award is all about,” said ANA President Karen A. Daley, PhD, RN, FAAN.

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“Nurses have the power to influence a patient’s hospital experience and, most importantly, their ultimate health outcome through their teamwork, innovation, leadership, and dedication. The award winners show they have performed the best in that regard,” Daley added.

The honorees were identified by researchers from among more than 1,900 hospitals — about one-third of U.S. hospitals — that report results to NDNQI and measure their performance against other NDNQI hospitals regionally, statewide, and nationwide. The six awardees demonstrated superior results and sustained improvement in patient outcomes that are tied to the quality of nursing services and nurse work environment factors. A total of 17 clinical process and patient outcome measures are evaluated to determine overall quality. The winners are:

- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick, N.J. – Academic Medical Center.
- St. Francis Hospital – The Heart Center, Roslyn, N.Y. – Community Hospital. St. Francis, which cares for patients with cardiac medical problems and performs cardiac and vascular surgery, decreased the number of patients developing hospital-acquired pressure ulcers soon after surgery by 21 percent over six years.
- Akron Children’s Hospital Mahoning Valley, Boardman, Ohio – Pediatric Hospital.
- Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital, San Diego, Calif. – Psychiatric Hospital. Sharp Mesa Vista had no incidences of physical restraints for four consecutive quarters and scored in the top 15 percent in patient satisfaction with nursing among NDNQI-participating hospitals.
- Craig Hospital, Englewood, Colo. – Rehabilitation Hospital. Craig, whose patients include those with traumatic brain injury (TBI), reduced its patient falls rate by 16 percent by instituting a policy requiring two staff members to transfer patients with TBI.
- Rose Medical Center, Denver, Colo. – Teaching Hospital.

NDNQI, a program of ANA’s National Center for Nursing Quality® (NCNQ®), tracks a broad range of outcomes that indicate the quality of nursing services, such as hospital-acquired pressure ulcers, patient falls, and infections. It also establishes links between patient outcomes and nurse staffing characteristics, such as nursing care hours, education level, certification, and turnover. NDNQI allows nursing units to compare their performance to similar units at other hospitals and use the data to set benchmarks for excellence.

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