



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 12, 2010

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Aultman Hospital Awarded for Patient Safety

Ohio Hospitals Celebrate Patient Safety Week

COLUMBUS, Ohio –The Ohio Patient Safety Institute (OPSI) today announced **Aultman Hospital** in Canton as the recipient of its second annual Best Practice Award, which honors a health care organization for implementing the most innovative, evidence-based patient safety practice in the state. The announcement coincides with Patient Safety Week, a national education and awareness-building campaign for improving patient safety at the local level.

The staff in Aultman Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) implemented a program in conjunction with the Ohio Perinatal Quality Collaborative, a network of 24 hospitals working to improve neonatal outcomes, to reduce blood stream infections and infections in Cerebrospinal fluid, which circulates around the brain, by 50 percent in premature infants 22-29 weeks.

Catheter-associated Blood Stream Infections (CA-BSI) occur when a tube inserted into a body cavity or vessel to allow drainage or injection of fluids becomes infected. CA-BSI impacts premature infants by increasing complications and death, increasing length of stay, increasing hospitalization costs and lowering patient and family satisfaction. According to the National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance System (NNIS), the mean CA-BSI rate for preterm infants weighing less than 2.2 pounds was 9.1 infections per 1,000 central line days.

Staff in Aultman Hospital's NICU took measures to meet four key areas of improvement:

- Process changes to ensure appropriate, safe use of central lines
- Excellent hand hygiene
- Improved room and equipment cleaning procedures
- Protection of the infant's skin integrity.

As a result of complying with these measures, bloodstream infections in the NICU decreased from 12 percent in 2007 to five percent in 2009.

“When staff believed it was possible to decrease infections in this vulnerable population, infection rate went down,” said NICU nurse Monica Coventry, RNC, MSN. “We learned it is a team effort; when physicians, nurses and practitioners are all on board, awesome results can happen.”

Created by OPSI's Board of Trustees, the Best Practice Award recognizes a program that has demonstrated a focus on improving patient safety in a health care setting, while incorporating regional and national patient safety benchmarks and remaining unique to the Ohio health care market.

Twenty-nine hospitals submitted best practices, and finalists included:

- **Euclid Hospital** (reduced MRSA colonization, which leads to infections)
- **Marietta Memorial Hospital** (reduced catheter-associated urinary tract infections)
- **Mount Carmel Health System**, Columbus (reduced blood transfusions after open heart surgery)
- **St. Elizabeth Health Center**, Youngstown (improved intensive care unit safety and outcomes)

Each submission will be featured in OPSI's Learning Library of effective practices. The award will be presented to the Aultman Hospital NICU staff in June as part of the Ohio Hospital Association Annual Meeting at the Hilton Columbus at Easton.

The Aultman Health Foundation is a not-for-profit health-care organization serving Stark and surrounding counties. With 682 beds, 530 active physicians and a staff of more than 5,000 employees, Aultman is Stark County's largest hospital.

About Ohio Patient Safety Institute:

The Ohio Patient Safety Institute (OPSI) is an organization dedicated to improving patient safety in Ohio. The Institute is a subsidiary of the Ohio Health Council, which was founded by the [Ohio Hospital Association](#), the [Ohio State Medical Association](#), and the [Ohio Osteopathic Association](#). Through this collaboration and common effort, OPSI has the ability to work with over 180 hospitals and 9,000 physicians in Ohio to improve patient safety for all Ohioans. Visit OPSI at www.ohiopatientsafety.org.

About OHA

The Ohio Hospital Association was established in 1915 and currently represents 169 hospitals and 18 health systems throughout Ohio. OHA is a membership-driven organization that provides proactive leadership to create an environment in which Ohio hospitals are successful in serving their communities. Visit OHA's Web site at www.ohanet.org. Follow OHA on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/OhioHospitals>.