

MEDIA RELEASE

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ACHS Quality Improvement Award Winners Announced

Hunter New England Local Health District, Metro South Hospital and Health Service – Logan Hospital, and The Children’s Hospital at Westmead were announced as winners of the 18th Annual ACHS Quality Improvement Awards at the ACHS / ACHSM Joint Congress in Melbourne today.

ACHS Executive Director of Customer Services and Development Ms Linda O’Connor together with Baxter Director Healthcare solution, Mr Brendan Cummins presented the awards in three categories – Clinical Excellence and Patient Safety, Non-Clinical Service Delivery, and Healthcare Measurement.

This year, ACHS received approximately 100 high quality submissions from Australian and International ACHS member and Clinical Indicator Program organisations.

Hunter New England Local Health District won the **Clinical Excellence and Patient Safety Award** for their Preventing Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) which accounts for 40% of all Healthcare Association Infections (HAIs).

Metro South Hospital and Health Service – Logan Hospital won the **Non-Clinical Service Delivery Award** for their Preventing Infection through Cleaner Hospitals (PITCH): An Environmental Cleaning Bundle project to reduce HAIs and also reform and enhance hospital cleaning practice. This includes the introduction of ultraviolet gel auditing to assist in the visual review of cleaning.

The **Healthcare Measurement Award** was won by The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, for Sustaining Improvements in Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Nutrition Outcomes for patients aged 2-18 years.

Ms O’Connor said the competition within the three categories had increased in recent years, each one having at least one ‘Highly Commended’ as runner-up to the winners. “The judges were impressed by both the scope and the very high level of entries submitted,” she said.

“Each of the winners have identified an area of improvement in health, and set about to deliver a project that will bring measurable results. The Quality Initiative Awards are all about showcasing practical innovation projects where the use of imagination to challenge standard practices and provide more creative problem-solving is leading to stronger initiatives.”

“Patients around the country will benefit in the long-term from these initiatives as they are adopted by other health practices looking to improve patient safety,” Ms O’Connor said.

For further information please contact Communications Manager Ian McManus Ph +61 2 8218 2743. To obtain a copy of the *Quality Initiatives – Entries in the 17th Annual ACHS Quality Improvement Awards 2014* publication, contact Dr Mark Burgess on +61 2 8218 2776 or mburgess@achs.org.au

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