

# DICK DAVIDSON QUALITY MILESTONE AWARD FOR ALLIED ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP



**American Hospital  
Association**

The Dick Davidson Quality Milestone Award for Allied Association Leadership is presented annually to a state, regional or metropolitan hospital association which, through its programs and activities, demonstrates exceptional organizational leadership and innovation in quality improvement and has made significant contributions to the measurable improvement of quality within its geographic area.

The award is named after American Hospital Association (AHA) president emeritus Dick Davidson, who strongly promoted the role of hospital associations in leading quality improvement initiatives during his tenure as AHA president from 1991 to 2006 and as president of the Maryland Hospital Association from 1969 to 1991.

The goals of this award are to:

- Recognize outstanding efforts among allied hospital associations to improve quality;
- Encourage allied hospital associations to play key roles in raising the level of hospital and health system performance to achieve care that is safe, timely, effective, equitable, efficient and patient-centered;
- Spread the learning and progress toward national health care improvement that are being promoted by allied hospital associations.

The award criteria includes:

- Coherent strategic and tactical plan for setting improvement priorities, getting buy-in, executing quality improvement activities, aligning with national initiatives, using evidence-based measures and practices, and spreading and sustaining the efforts;
- Measurable improvement in quality measures—related to specific quality improvement activities and initiatives of the association—among health care providers in its geographic area during the past 12 to 24 months;
- Extent of spread of improvement across the region, settings of care and various populations;
- Evidence of sustainability of the improvements, including the engagement and contribution of key stakeholders innovativeness of the intervention(s) that achieved improvement.

## 2011 RECIPIENTS:

**IOWA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION**

**WASHINGTON STATE HOSPITAL  
ASSOCIATION**

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## IOWA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

The Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) demonstrated an incredibly strong and collaborative model to engage all providers in a voluntary statewide quality improvement journey. A core foundational element of IHA's progress was the formation of the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) in 2005. This new 501 c(3) was jointly developed by IHA and the Iowa Medical Society and includes board members representing business, health insurance and consumers. IHC has three cornerstones for its work:

1. Aligning and equipping Iowa providers for continuous improvement through education and sharing of best practices;
2. Promoting responsible public reporting; and
3. Raising the standard of health care by participation in state and national improvement initiatives.

The outcomes Iowa hospitals have achieved statewide through the Collaborative include (and are all significant improvements from past years):

- The hospital worker influenza vaccination rate was 91 percent in the 2009 to 2010 flu season;
- Implementation of the AMI (acute myocardial infarction) care bundle in 88 percent of all hospitals by 2011;
- Medication reconciliation performed in 78 percent of all hospitals by 2011;
- Implementation of the surgical site infection prevention bundle in 88 percent of all hospitals by 2011; and
- Dramatic improvement in the implementation of other best practice protocols for reducing MRSA, central line associated blood stream infections, catheter associated urinary tract infections and pressure ulcers.

Through innovative cooperative activities, active participation of hospitals and transparency focus, IHA has been driving major change in improvement and the spread of improvement statewide.

## WASHINGTON STATE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

The Washington State Hospital Association and their members have relentlessly pursued and achieved ambitious goals through collaboration and a focus on evidence based strategies that make an impact on patient safety. WSHA engages members in a statewide patient-focused strategy for improvement through Safe Table Learning Collaboratives. The collaboratives provide a unique forum for frank and open discussion in a non-competitive environment. The results are impressive and have truly raised the improvement bar through the "power of the collective." A few of WSHA's strategies include:

- Leadership engagement: Equipping hospital governing boards to be leaders in safety and quality,
- Statewide measurement: Accelerating progress with feedback on performance using a web-based reporting system developed by WSHA,
- Patient involvement: Engaging patients in their care through education and materials, and
- Accountability to the community: Sustaining improvement through continual monitoring and expanded transparency.

In 2010, WSHA's specific accomplishments include:

- Achieving among the lowest central line infection rates in the nation, less than 0.7 per 1,000 patient days, among the lowest rates in the nation,
- Increasing hospital and health system employee flu immunization rates to over 85 percent (including non-clinical staff),
- Adoption of a standardized surgical checklist in 100 percent of hospitals,
- Development and adoption of standardized emergency code calls across all hospitals in Washington State, and
- Expanding transparency with the reporting of surgical site infections and other infections to create one integrated public resource.

WSHA leveraged the true power of collaboration to achieve sustained improvement in safety and quality for patients. Their dedication is making health care in Washington State safer for everyone.