Building healthy communities is a team sport. Hospitals and health systems must involve patients, their families, local communities and the nation to improve individual and community health. And what characterizes the very best in health care? Quality – providing the safest, highest quality care possible for patients in all settings.

The AHA/HRET Hospital Engagement Network (HEN) has worked with more than 1,500 hospitals on specific areas of focus including reducing early elective deliveries, health care-acquired infections and readmissions.

The AHA is committed to building on these successes, leading to better care and reduced costs for everyone.

Providing Quality Care

Overall:

- **69,000** Incidences of harm prevented
- **$202 million** In cost savings

Spotlight on:

Reducing Early Elective Deliveries

- Babies born past the 39-week mark are healthier and have fewer complications.
- **57%** Early elective deliveries reduced

Reducing Infections

- Targeted efforts have successfully reduced top deadly infections – central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) and catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI).
- **23%** Reduction of CLABSI
- **18%** Reduction of CAUTI

- Patients who are put on ventilators are at a higher risk for complications, such as ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP).
- **34%** ICU VAP reduction across all units

Reducing Hospital Readmissions

- Unplanned hospital readmissions are complex with many facets.
- **13%** Reduced avoidable readmissions for heart failure patients
- **6%** Reduced all cause readmissions

Thousands of other hospitals are doing the same work with similar outstanding results across the country. Engaging patients and families is critical to improve care. That’s why hospitals have focused on patient engagement, from providing health care providers the tools they need to effectively communicating with patients during their hospital stay to ensuring patients and their families understand discharge and medication instructions, which can be a “game changer” in transforming care.

To learn more, contact:

Jennifer Schleman, AHA Media Relations, jschleman@aha.org