



## American Hospital Association®

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**CONNECTICUT AND WISCONSIN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATIONS  
RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**  
*Will Receive Dick Davidson Quality Milestone Award for Allied Association  
Leadership*

WASHINGTON (June 10, 2014) – The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) and the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) are the 2014 recipients of the Dick Davidson Quality Milestone Award for Allied Association Leadership for their work to improve health care quality, the American Hospital Association (AHA) announced today. The award, given to state, regional or metropolitan hospital associations that demonstrate leadership and innovation in quality improvement and contribute to national health care improvement efforts, will be presented July 20 at the 2014 Health Forum-AHA Leadership Summit in San Diego.

“Improving quality and patient safety is a never-ending quest for America’s hospitals and health systems,” said Rich Umbdenstock, AHA president and CEO. “The Connecticut and Wisconsin state hospital associations exemplify the key role now played by hospital associations across the country in convening and supporting their members in the critical work of quality and safety collaboratives.”

CHA has made significant contributions to quality improvement throughout the state, acting as a model for the hospital field by exhibiting continuous improvement, sharing best practices and emphasizing sustainability. CHA’s first-of-its-kind high reliability collaborative model engages hospital executives and staff with the goal of eliminating all-cause preventable harm. Twenty-eight hospitals are participating in the high reliability

collaborative. According to CHA, the biggest innovation from the high reliability approach is that it focuses not on events but on behaviors.

By changing hospital culture and energizing existing safety and quality efforts, Connecticut hospitals have shown significant improvements in catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI), and surgical site infections (SSI) over the past several years. For example, Connecticut hospitals achieved a CLABSI rate that is half the national benchmark expected rate.

WHA demonstrated a comprehensive quality portfolio supported by strong leadership and governance. Along with 108 of its member hospitals, WHA developed strategic partnerships to advance quality care, specifically preventing Early Elective Deliveries (EED), or babies born at the request of the mother before 39 weeks gestation, and readmissions. Since mid-2012, Wisconsin hospitals have reduced EEDs by 78 percent, with an associated estimated cost savings of more than \$210,000.

Preventing a recently discharged patient from an unplanned return to the hospital within 30 days is a complex issue. WHA and its hospitals successfully reduced readmissions by 22 percent, exceeding the government's goal of a 20 percent reduction. This eliminated readmissions for more than 3,500 patients and reduced health care spending by more than \$34 million.

“The Dick Davidson Quality Milestone Award Committee honors the important work the state associations are doing to improve quality and patient safety across the country. As chair, I am thrilled to honor Connecticut and Wisconsin for their vision, innovative approaches and leadership. Their commitment to delivering quality care makes them role models for the entire field,” said Joanne Carrocino, president and CEO, Cape Regional Medical Center, Cape May Court House, N.J., and chair of the AHA Davidson Award Committee.

The award is named for AHA President Emeritus Dick Davidson, who strongly promoted the role of hospital associations in leading quality improvement during his tenure as AHA

president and as president of the Maryland Hospital Association. Applications are reviewed by a multi-disciplinary award committee that includes hospital association executives, hospital and health system clinical and operational leaders and a representative from a national, non-AHA organization involved in quality and performance improvement. Information on the award and how to apply is available on AHA's website.

### **About the AHA**

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations that are committed to health improvement in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which include nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care. Founded in 1898, AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA website at [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org).

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