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COLLABORATIVE RELEASES 2007 STATEWIDE PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Hospitals Successfully Improve Care Provided to ICU Patients

Providence, R.I. – Mar. 20, 2008 - Hospitals from across the state gathered today to review 2007 statewide performance results of the Rhode Island ICU (Intensive Care Unit) Collaborative. Launched in 2005, the Collaborative has aimed to improve the quality and safety of care for adult ICU patients by reducing length of stay, complications and associated costs. ICU teams have implemented and evaluated proven strategies that address these issues.

Intensive care units make use of the greatest advancements in medical science and represent areas with great opportunity to prevent medical death and reduce costs. For more than two years, ICU teams have worked to reduce the rate of catheter-related blood stream infections, ventilator-associated pneumonia, and improve the culture of safety, which ultimately drives clinical performance. Hospitals' performance in 2007 included:

- » Decreasing the rate of catheter-related blood stream infections by 42%
- » A 16% drop in ventilator-associated pneumonia
- » Improvement in staff's perception of the safety climate in nearly 48% of ICUs

Work with this Collaborative has positively impacted the care provided to patients in all 263 ICU beds across the state. Hospitals in Rhode Island care for more than 16,000 patients each year in the ICU setting. A conservative estimate of the impact of the ICU Collaborative in 2007 revealed:

- » \$2.8 million in avoided costs
- » 19 lives saved
- » A reduction of 958 ICU patient days

The Collaborative has aimed to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and change culture. Further, it worked to improve patient, family and staff satisfaction. The work has augmented existing hospital quality improvement efforts in Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island ICU Collaborative was formed by the Rhode Island Quality Institute, Quality Partners of Rhode Island, and the Hospital Association of Rhode Island. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island and UnitedHealthcare of New England have funded the project's management costs and hospitals support the internal costs of the program.

"The Rhode Island ICU Collaborative is having a profound positive effect on our state's health care system," said Laura L. Adams, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Quality Institute. "With every adult ICU in the state engaged in this effort, Rhode Island is well on its way to becoming the safest place in the nation to receive ICU care. "

"The ongoing success of this collaborative demonstrates the positive results that are possible through collaboration and the sharing of best practices," said H. John Keimig, President & CEO of Quality Partners of Rhode Island. "The health care system needs to continuously challenge itself to ensure that every policy, performance and protocol is leveraging the best practices in quality improvement and patient safety. The care of patients must be the ultimate goal."

"Measuring and improving clinical performance has long been a top priority for hospitals in Rhode Island," said Edward J. Quinlan, president of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island. "The results of the Rhode Island ICU Collaborative are among many examples of how care is improved through the sharing of best practices and a commitment to quality and patient safety."

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