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ICU TEAMS CELEBRATE IMPROVED PATIENT CARE

Providence, R.I. – October 1, 2009 – Health care professionals throughout the state recently gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the Rhode Island ICU (intensive care unit) Collaborative and explore new opportunities to further improve care for Rhode Island patients. The ICU Collaborative Outcomes Congress marked the completion of the second phase of the Collaborative and provided attendees the opportunity to share best practices, strategize with colleagues and learn from national experts.

The project aims to improve the quality and safety of care provided in ICUs by reducing length of stay, complications and associated costs. Four years after its launch, the Rhode Island ICU Collaborative remains the only project of its kind in the United States to maintain 100 percent participation.

Hundreds of hospital employees participate in the effort. Their results include:

- » Decreasing the rate of central line-associated blood stream infections by 62 percent
- » A 21 percent drop in ventilator-associated pneumonia
- » Improvement in staff's perception of the safety climate in nearly 56 percent of ICUs

Intensive care units make use of the greatest advancements in medical science and represent areas with great opportunity to prevent death and reduce costs. The Collaborative has positively impacted the care provided to more than 16,000 patients in 263 hospital ICU beds across the state. A conservative estimate of the impact of the ICU Collaborative reveals:

- » \$5.9 million in avoided costs
- » 45 lives saved
- » A reduction of 2,076 ICU patient days

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. The Collaborative is funded by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, UnitedHealthcare of New England, and Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, as well as the individual participating hospitals who continue to support the project's internal costs.

"We are very proud of the significant results that continue to be achieved by the Rhode Island ICU Collaborative," said Laura L. Adams, president and CEO of the Rhode Island Quality Institute. "Rhode Island is by far one of the safest places in the nation to receive ICU care. This is a direct result of having every adult ICU in the state following the same evidence-based protocols and procedures."

"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 and CEO of Quality Partners of Rhode Island. "This is just one in a long line of examples of our state's dedication to quality improvement and patient safety."

"The results of the Rhode Island ICU Collaborative would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of our health care professionals," said Edward J. Quinlan, president of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island. "It is because of their professionalism, expertise and devotion to patients that we are able to celebrate such achievements."