



Maryland
Hospital Association

PRESS RELEASE
June 14, 2016

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Maryland Hospital Association Receives National Quality Improvement Leadership Award

Elkridge, Md. — The Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) is the 2016 recipient of the [*Dick Davidson Quality Milestone Award for Allied Association Leadership*](#) for its work to improve health care quality. The award, given each year to a state, regional or metropolitan hospital association that demonstrates leadership and innovation in quality improvement and contributes to national health care improvement efforts, will be presented July 17 at the 2016 Health Forum-American Hospital Association Leadership Summit in San Diego.

According to the judges, in winning the award, MHA demonstrated how far and how fast Maryland's hospitals have come in making progress toward the Triple Aim of health care – improving patient care and population health while reducing costs.

“This is an association award, but credit really goes to the leaders of Maryland's hospitals, who have demonstrated a rock-solid commitment to quality initiatives that can help them better serve their patients and communities,” said Carmela Coyle, President & CEO of the Maryland Hospital Association.

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. This year, associations in Ohio and Kansas received honorable mentions.

“Every day, hospitals strive to provide safe, quality patient care,” said Rick Pollack, AHA president and CEO. “These three states – Maryland, Ohio and Kansas – lead by example, offering resources that inspire the hospitals in their state and across the country to do all they can to get to zero errors.”

At the heart of this award is a commitment by Maryland's hospitals to never stop working to improve safety and outcomes for patients. Myriad examples demonstrate the measurable impact of this change on Marylanders' lives:

- The March of Dimes recognized Maryland as the first state in the nation in which 100 percent of its birthing hospitals reduced the rate of early elective deliveries to less than 5 percent for six consecutive months
- One-hundred percent of Maryland’s hospitals have committed to the national *Equity of Care* campaign, designed to reduce and eliminate health disparities across racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups
- Hospitals have reduced preventable infections and complications by more than one-third over the past two years (e.g.: ventilator-associated pneumonia is down 77 percent; catheter-associated urinary tract infections are down 90 percent)
- The readmissions rate for Maryland’s hospitals is dropping faster than the nation as a whole – the result of 100 percent participation in a statewide campaign to reduce readmissions

Three factors contributed to MHA’s recognition:

- **An all-in approach** – For every quality initiative, MHA seeks and almost always achieves 100 percent hospital participation.
- **Top-down buy-in** – For each initiative, MHA requires a literal sign-on from hospital CEOs, so that the entire staff understands they are backed by the full commitment of their hospital.
- **Low-cost, high efficiency** – MHA’s approach means lower costs and streamlined work for individual hospitals, which allows staff and resources to be efficiently used.

“MHA is proud of what’s been accomplished so far and recognizes that there is yet much work to be done,” Coyle said. “Hospitals are committed to improving health care for Marylanders – not because of any policy or award recognition, but because it’s the right thing to do for the people with whose lives they are entrusted.”

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About the Maryland Hospital Association

The Maryland Hospital Association is the advocate for Maryland hospitals, health systems, and their patients before legislative and regulatory bodies. Its membership is composed of community and teaching hospitals, health systems, specialty hospitals, veterans’ hospitals, and long-term care facilities. For more information, visit www.mhaonline.org.

About the American Hospital Association

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the improvement of health in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends.