



Ernest Amory Codman Award

National Health Care Award for Performance Measurement

Organization Award: Multiple Organization

**Greater Cincinnati Patient Safety ICU
Collaborative, Cincinnati, Ohio**

For its initiative: "Improving Patient Safety: Implementation of Evidence Based Practices"

Participating hospitals: Bethesda North Hospital • The Christ Hospital • Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center • Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center • The Fort Hamilton Hospital • Good Samaritan Hospital • The Jewish Hospital • Mercy Mount Airy • St. Elizabeth Medical Center • The University Hospital

Each year in the United States, nosocomial infections occur in 7 to 10 percent of hospitalized patients, account for 80,000 deaths, and lead to approximately \$3.5 billion in direct costs. This patient safety collaborative, based on the work of the Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, successfully reduced nosocomial infections for patients receiving care in the highest risk areas of acute care—the operating room and intensive care units. Strategies included: 1) reducing central-line infections by standardizing the use of sterile barriers (e.g., sterile gloves and gowns, full bed-size drapes) and applying chlorhexidine gluconate antiseptic to the insertion site; 2) reducing surgical site infections by using correct antibiotic timing; and 3) staff training in organizational change methodology.

Staff was critical to the success of the project. Staff met with manufacturers to develop a new central line insertion kit with contents to facilitate correct central line insertion. Physicians and staff had in-services on the new central line tray and contents, and received education on the benefits of using chlorhexidine. During 2003-2004, the initiative achieved the following:

Achievements

- Reduced central line infections by 50 percent.
- Increased adherence to evidence-based practices to 95 percent from 30 percent.
- Created a new model for facilitating improvement as a community, with an increased chance of success, sharing of successful strategies, reducing rework across the sites, and speeding the implementation process.