



Press Release

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DATE: August 18, 2005

Washington Hospital participates in 100,000 Lives Campaign

Fremont, Calif. – As a result of a resolution passed unanimously by the Washington Township Health Care District’s Board of Directors, Washington Hospital Healthcare System has joined the efforts of hospitals nationwide by participating in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s (IHI) 100,000 Lives Campaign, the first-ever national initiative to save a specified number of lives by a certain date (June 14, 2006) using proven clinical practices and methods.

“We’ve chosen to participate because the goals of this national initiative are consistent with the patient first ethic that guides care here at Washington,” said Washington Hospital Chief Executive Officer Nancy Farber. “It’s clear that simple, straight-forward changes to some of the methods employed within the hospital can have dramatic effects on the outcomes of patients.”

Within the Bay Area, participation in the 100,000 Lives Campaign is being coordinated by the Bay Area Patient Safety Collaborative which is a project bringing together hospital executives and managers responsible for patient safety and quality improvement efforts in a peer-to-peer learning community. The initial focus of the Collaborative is the IHI’s 100,000 Lives Campaign. The Collaborative is staffed by the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California and serves hospitals in Marin, San Francisco, Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Program costs are underwritten by The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

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Washington Township Health Care District, 2000 Mowry Avenue, Fremont CA (510) 797-1111
Nancy Farber, Chief Executive Officer

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The national campaign was formally unveiled on December 14, 2004, and has been endorsed by such distinguished health care organizations as the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and the National Patient Safety Foundation.

In May 2005, only six months after its kick-off, the Campaign surpassed its enrollment goal of 2,000 and announced the participation of more than one-third of U.S. acute care hospitals (more than 2,300) in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Washington Hospital has chosen to participate in all of the following six quality improvement changes as part of its participation in the campaign:

- **Rapid Response Teams** – is a team of clinicians who bring critical care expertise to the patient bedside (or wherever it is needed);
- **Deliver Reliable Evidence-Based Care for Acute Myocardial Infarction** – by consistently delivering key measures – including early administration of aspirin and beta-blockers – that prevent patient deaths from heart attack;
- **Prevent Adverse Drug Events** – by implementing medication reconciliation, which requires that a list of all of a patient’s medications (even for unrelated illnesses) be compiled and reconciled to ensure that the patient is given (or prescribed) the right medications at the correct dosages – at admission, discharge and before transferring a patient to another care unit;
- **Prevent Central Line Infections** – by consistently delivering five interdependent, scientifically grounded steps collectively called the “Central Line Bundle”;

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- **Prevent Surgical Site Infections** – by reliably delivering the correct perioperative antibiotics, maintaining glucose levels and avoiding shaving hair at the surgical site;
- **Prevent Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia** – by implementing five interdependent, scientifically grounded steps collectively called the “Ventilator Bundle” – such as elevating the head of the hospital bed to between 30 and 45 degrees – thereby dramatically reducing mortality and length of stay in the Intensive Care Unit.

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is a not-for-profit organization leading the improvement of health care throughout the world. Founded in 1991 and based in Cambridge, MA, IHI is a catalyst for change, cultivating innovative concepts for improving patient care and implementing programs for putting those ideas into action. Thousands of health care providers, including many of the finest hospitals in the world, participate in IHI’s groundbreaking work.

The Hospital Council of Northern and Central California is a nonprofit hospital and health system trade association representing more than 200 hospitals in 50 of California's 58 Counties - from Kern County to the Oregon border. The organization’s membership ranges from small, rural hospitals to large, urban medical centers and represents more than 38,000 licensed beds.

Washington Hospital Healthcare System includes the 337-bed, acute-care general hospital; four clinics located in Fremont, Warm Springs, Newark and later this year, Union City; Washington Stanford Radiation Oncology Center; Washington Outpatient Surgery Center; Washington Outpatient Rehabilitation Center; Washington Outpatient Catheterization Laboratory; Washington Center for Joint Replacement; the Institute for Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery; and Washington West, a medical complex with outpatient hospital services and educational facilities.