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CareOregon Applauds Success of 100,000 Lives Campaign CSSI Grant Program Helps Launch Hospital Projects

Portland, Ore. August 3, 2006 – Oregon health care providers—aided by CareOregon—are playing a key role in the success of an 18-month national campaign to prevent unnecessary hospital deaths.

The 100,000 Lives Campaign, spearheaded by the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI), has sparked novel and innovative approaches in health care. The campaign prevented more than 122,000 avoidable hospital deaths through key quality improvement changes targeting patient safety.

In Oregon, innovations included developing rapid response teams, decreasing medication errors and infections, and protecting patients on ventilators from developing pneumonia. Hospitals working with CareOregon, which serves the largest number of Oregon Health Plan recipients, implemented evidence based practices identified by IHI as those best designed to improve systems. Through its Care Support and System Innovation (CSSI) program, CareOregon provides funds for patient-focused initiatives and programs intended to enhance service to members and other vulnerable Oregonians.

During its first two years of implementation, CSSI has awarded more than \$380,000 to hospitals seeking to execute evidence-based and life-saving interventions, said Diana Wolford, CSSI program coordinator. “We applaud these hospitals for their commitment in making significant strides in quality improvement for their patients,” she said.

“We’re delighted to take part in this national campaign. Together with our providers, we are all working toward the goal of improving the quality of health care offered to the individuals and families we serve,” said Dr. David Labby, CareOregon medical director.

Four CSSI supported projects were part of the 100,000 Lives campaign:

Activate a Rapid Response Team. Hospitals at Legacy Health System implemented a Rapid Response Team program. The team, comprised of a group of critical care experts, provides immediate care for patients in distress. The Rapid Response Team is available to rush to the bedside of a declining patient, assess the situation and make appropriate interventions. The program focuses on patients with heart and lung conditions or those recovering from surgery and seeks to prevent codes and other medical crises from happening in the first place.

Prevent medication errors. Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Hospital launched a medication reconciliation initiative designed to reduce medication errors during hospital stays and at discharge. At OHSU, the project resulted in a collaborative effort to develop and initiate a process for reconciliation at admission, said Ruby Jason, director of Inpatient Pediatrics at OHSU’s Doernbecher Children’s Hospital. “This process is an attempt to have the medication

history of the patient to become a focus of an intake interview. This process involves the patient, the family, the community physician and the admitting physician, as well as pharmacists and nurses, all working together to gather correct and accurate information,” she said.

Prevent infections. The Asante Health System IHI Prevention Strategies Project began at Rogue Valley Medical Center in 2005 and was expanded to include Three Rivers Community Hospital in 2006. The project is implementing infection control strategies for surgical and other patients. One of the recent activities of the project was to form multidisciplinary teams to address glucose control for cardiac surgery patients, which is one of the components of reducing surgical site infections. By reducing VAP and infections, the project expects to lower overall hospital costs and to decrease the patient length of stay.

Protect patients on ventilators from developing pneumonia. OHSU began implementing evidence-based best practices for patients who suffer from pulmonary injury or disease. By helping patients avoid pneumonia, a common complication with ventilators, OHSU is reducing the length of patient stay in the hospital. In its first year, the project had a net benefit of more than \$1.5 million to OHSU and a savings of 492 inpatient days. This year, OHSU will also work to improve care for patients discharged to skilled nursing and home care.

The 100,000 Lives campaign has been extended through 2007. CareOregon supports the efforts of Oregon’s 100,000 Lives Network, which includes the Patient Safety Commission, the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, the Oregon Medical Association and Acentra Health.

“There is a strong case for participating in evidence-based efforts to improve patient care at Oregon hospitals. We encourage other health care payors and providers to become part of this landmark campaign,” said Dr. Labby.

This fall, hospitals, clinics and other health care providers will gather to discuss success stories, lessons learned and next steps at the CSSI Provider Conference, scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 5, at the Ambridge Event Center, 300 NE Multnomah. For more information on the CSSI program, contact Diana Wolford at 503-416-1725 or e-mail wolfordd@careoregon.org.

About CareOregon

CareOregon is committed to improving and protecting the health of low income and vulnerable Oregonians. The not-for-profit health plan is dedicated to providing access to high quality, cost-effective, culturally competent care for members and supporting the providers who care for them. For more information, visit <http://www.careoregon.org>.