



Illinois Health and Hospital Association

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**IHA Honors Illinois Hospitals and Health Systems for Developing and Implementing Quality Improvement Initiatives with Significant Impact**

*9<sup>th</sup> Annual IHA Quality Excellence Achievement Awards—Recipient Categories:  
Outstanding Achievement, Innovations in Care and Quality,  
Patient and Family Engagement, and Small and Rural*

Naperville, Ill.—Hospitals and health systems across Illinois devote significant resources to advancing patient care and safety through a variety of quality improvement initiatives. The Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) recognizes those dedicated efforts through its annual Quality Excellence Achievement Awards.

For the 2019 IHA Quality Awards, a national panel of quality experts judged the 57 hospital and health system submissions and selected five winning projects. The 2019 recipients and their award categories are:

- **Outstanding Achievement**—NorthShore University HealthSystem, Evanston;
- **Innovations in Care and Quality**—Advocate Sherman Hospital, Elgin;
- **Patient and Family Engagement**—Garfield Park Behavioral Hospital, Chicago; and
- **Small and Rural**— HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital, Breese and Taylorville Memorial Hospital, Taylorville (tie).

The awards were presented to leaders from the winning health system and hospitals during the IHA Leadership Summit on Sept. 26 in Lombard.

“The projects chosen for this year’s IHA Quality Excellence Achievement Awards represent the diversity of quality improvement initiatives underway in Illinois,” said IHA President and CEO A.J. Wilhelmi. “The winning projects address opioid use, community paramedicine, at-risk populations, fall prevention and surgical site infections. The impact these organizations are having on their patients and communities is significant and shows a deep commitment to quality improvement.”

“We applaud the efforts of all Illinois hospitals and health systems,” Wilhelmi added. “They too are achieving successes in enhancing quality care and having a positive effect on the patients and communities they serve.”

All projects submitted reflect current improvement activities with active engagement over the past 12 months. Here's a closer look at the projects honored:

### **Outstanding Achievement— NorthShore University HealthSystem**

**Project Title:** *Enhanced Recovery After Surgery: A System Strategy to Reduce Opioid Use and Improve Outcomes*

**Summary:** By implementing an Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) model, NorthShore University HealthSystem improved efficiency and clinical outcomes while reducing opioid use for five surgical procedures. NorthShore replaced traditional practices with evidence-based practices, engaging physicians as essential partners. Transforming the system's approach to surgical care has resulted in:

- 50% of affected patients discharged with no opioid medications;
- 75% reduction in morphine milligram equivalents;
- 1,938-day reduction in hospital length of stay; and
- \$4.4 million in cost savings.

### **Innovations in Care and Quality— Advocate Sherman Hospital**

**Project Title:** *Mobile Integrated Healthcare: A Free Program for High-Risk Patients to Prevent Readmissions*

**Summary:** The first-of-its-kind program approved in Illinois, the Advocate Sherman Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program deploys specially trained paramedics into the community to support patients in managing their chronic conditions. Community paramedicine is a relatively new and evolving healthcare model. It allows paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to assist with primary healthcare and preventive services in patients' homes. As a result of this program, Advocate Sherman saw:

- 57% fewer readmissions;
- 29% fewer ED visits; and
- \$2.7 million in cost savings.

### **Patient and Family Engagement—Garfield Park Behavioral Hospital**

**Project Title:** *Reducing Readmissions Through Community Involvement, Staff Training and Individualized Programs*

**Summary:** With a focus on at-risk populations, Garfield Park Behavioral Hospital created a specialized inpatient unit for LGBTQ adolescents and a service line for adolescent victims of sex trafficking. Current and former patients were on the diverse project team that developed clinical programs around patients' cultural traditions, personal preferences and values, family situations, and lifestyles. These unique programs ensure patients are an integral part of their care team. As a result:

- Readmissions decreased 14.5% in 2018; and
- Patient outcomes and satisfaction improved.

### **Small and Rural—HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital - Breese**

**Project Title:** *Our Journey to Zero Surgical Site Infections*

**Summary:** To decrease surgical site infections (SSIs), HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital - Breese conducted a hospital-wide risk assessment of infection prevention practices. This initiative focused on:

- Collaborating with general surgery providers on patient education for pre- and post-operative care;
- Elevating infection control risk assessments during construction projects; and
- Implementing pre-operative skin preparation protocols for high-risk patients.

As a result the SSI rate fell from 1.16 in 2017 to 0.34 in 2018, and physicians and staff are more engaged in promoting patient safety.

### **Small and Rural—Taylorville Memorial Hospital**

**Project Title:** *Reducing All-Cause Readmissions by Improving Coordination Across the Care Continuum*

**Summary:** Taylorville Memorial Hospital implemented a fall prevention program to reduce falls in the community through education, screening and post-screening interventions. Led by the hospital, this community-based approach established clinical guidelines and effective strategies to reduce fall risk at local assisted living facilities, independent senior communities and patient homes. As a result of this program:

- Monthly falls decreased by 67%; and
- Care coordination increased across multiple care partners, including families, patient care providers, physicians and the assisted living community.

IHA’s Institute for Innovations in Care and Quality spearheaded this effort to highlight the quality improvement work of IHA-member hospitals and health systems.

“Illinois hospitals and health systems are leaders in advancing care. It’s so important to take a moment to celebrate their efforts and successes,” said Helga Brake, Vice President, Quality, Safety, and Health Policy, who leads the Institute. “IHA’s Institute works alongside hospitals and health systems to advance quality care and patient safety for all Illinois residents.”

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### **About IHA’s Institute for Innovations in Care and Quality**

The Institute is a strategic center actively engaged in implementing evidence-based quality and safety initiatives while creating innovative member programs to measurably strengthen the quality of healthcare across Illinois. It aims to inform, empower and lead IHA members in advancing Illinois as a person-centered, national model for high-value healthcare.

### **About IHA**

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association, with offices in Naperville, Springfield, Washington, D.C., and Chicago advocates for Illinois’ more than 200 hospitals and nearly 50 health systems as they serve their patients and communities. IHA members provide a broad range of services—not just within their walls, but across the continuum of healthcare and in their communities. Reflecting the diversity of the state, IHA members consist of nonprofit, investor-owned and public hospitals in the following categories: community, safety net, rural, critical access, specialty and teaching hospitals, including academic medical centers. For more information, see [www.team-iha.org](http://www.team-iha.org). Like IHA on [Facebook](#). Follow IHA on [Twitter](#).

