



Illinois Health and Hospital Association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, OSF Home Health Awarded  
2025 Patient Safety Awards***  
***Safety Achievements Underscore Commitment to Deliver Trusted, High-Quality  
Care***

**NAPERVILLE** – The Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) Patient Safety Organization (PSO) announced the recipients of its annual MAPS PSO Patient Safety Champion and Ambassador awards in recognition of extraordinary efforts to improve patient safety in healthcare.

“IHA and MAPS commend Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers and the OSF Home Health team in Ottawa for exemplifying excellence in patient safety and quality improvement,” said IHA President and CEO A.J. Wilhelmi. “These awards celebrate the compassion, dedication, and teamwork that inspire healthcare workers to deliver safe, high-quality care to every patient, every day.”

**The MAPS PSO 2025 Patient Safety Champion individual award was presented to Jessica Gerard, a CT Technologist, at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers.**

*Jessica Gerard was nominated by **Julie Lindley** for efforts related to weight scale discrepancy.*

A CT technologist’s attention to detail uncovered inaccurate patient weights from Emergency Department carts, revealing a 20-pound discrepancy that could have compromised contrast dosing and patient safety. The issue prompted recalibration of all ED carts and the establishment of a new process for regular weight checks, ensuring greater accuracy and safeguarding patients across the system.

**For the 2025 Patient Safety Ambassador team award, the MAPS PSO committee honored the OSF Home Health team in Ottawa members:**

Rhonda Newman, Michelle Perkins, Connie Banks, Tylen Lewis, Kyle W. Boerke, Molly Harder, Gwen King, and Jacquelyn Valentine.

*The team was nominated by **Dawn Wimmer** for efforts related to suicide prevention.*

Following a sentinel event, the Quality team and home health leaders identified critical gaps in depression and suicide screening across outpatient care. Their work drove cross-continuum collaboration with Behavioral Health, IT, and organizational leadership to integrate PHQ-9 triggers for the CSSR scale, supported by broad education and new processes guiding care teams in next steps. The

initiative also uncovered opportunities in pain assessment and management, now addressed through audits and parameter optimization. Relentless commitment to patient safety and mental health led to system-wide improvements and stronger safeguards across outpatient settings.

All awards were presented by MAPS, an IHA company, at the MAPS PSO Annual Culture of Safety Workshop in November. Awardees receive trophies, pins and certificates to commemorate their achievements.

### **MAPS PSO Patient Safety Champion Program**

Federally certified since 2010, MAPS PSO assists its members with the important work of reducing adverse events so they can provide a safer healthcare experience for their patients. As part of its commitment to member excellence, MAPS established the Patient Safety Champion Program to highlight and reward members' commitment to patient safety.

MAPS PSO has a vital role in coordinating adverse event reporting and aggregating the data to drive collaboration and change. Members use this information to guide their efforts to improve care. MAPS PSO members include Midwestern health systems, hospitals, Critical Access Hospitals, medical groups, long-term care and specialty outpatient clinics. Each benefit from the security of a protected PSO environment to collect, analyze, and learn from adverse event data and best practices.

To learn more about MAPS PSO, visit [www.alliance4ptsafety.org](http://www.alliance4ptsafety.org).

### **About the Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety**

The [Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety \(MAPS\)](http://www.alliance4ptsafety.org) is a federally listed Patient Safety Organization (PSO) aligned with the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA). Since 2010, its mission has been to promote the adoption of best practices by Midwestern healthcare organizations to improve the delivery of safe and quality care to all patients. As a non-profit organization, MAPS strives to position itself as the leading provider-sponsored PSO. Based in Naperville, Illinois, MAPS provides the opportunity to exceed standards of quality of care by providing expert clinical staff and strong programs and services focused on patient safety education, strong member PSO operations and performance improvement.

### **About IHA**

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association, with offices in Chicago, Naperville, Springfield and Washington, D.C., advocates for Illinois' more than 200 hospitals and nearly 40 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 non-profit, 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 [team-ih.org](http://team-ih.org). Like IHA on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/IHA). Follow IHA on [X](https://twitter.com/IHA), formerly Twitter.

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