



For Immediate Release

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PROJECT ACHIEVES NEW MILESTONES IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Providence, R.I. – March 20, 2012 – The Rhode Island ICU Collaborative continues to make significant strides in quality improvement and patient safety. Recently released 2011 data shows the rate of central line-associated blood stream infections and ventilator-associated pneumonia reached an all-time low last year.

Results include:

- » Decreasing the rate of central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) by 61 percent
 - Achieving a 6 percent decline in the number of line days
 - Recording the lowest quarterly CLABSI rate in six years during the fourth quarter of 2011
- » A 34 percent drop in ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP)
 - Reducing ventilator days by 22 percent
 - Achieving the lowest quarterly VAP rate in six years during the fourth quarter of 2011
- » Reducing sepsis mortality by more than 35 percent

Intensive care units make use of the greatest advancements in medical science and represent areas with great opportunity to prevent death and reduce costs. A conservative estimate of the impact of the ICU Collaborative since its launch in 2006 reveals:

- » \$17.2 million in avoided costs
- » 249 lives saved
- » A reduction of 5,763 ICU patient days

The project aims to improve the quality and safety of care provided in ICUs by reducing length of stay, complications and associated costs. Seven years after its launch, the Rhode Island ICU Collaborative remains the only project of its kind in the United States to maintain 100 percent participation.

The Rhode Island ICU Collaborative was formed by the Rhode Island Quality Institute, Healthcentric Advisors (formerly Quality Partners of Rhode Island) and the Hospital Association of Rhode Island. The Collaborative is funded by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, UnitedHealthcare of New England and Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, as well as the individual participating hospitals who continue to support the project's internal costs.

“These results once again prove that collaboration and the sharing of best practices is key to quality improvement,” said Margaret Vigorito, RN, MS, CPHQ, senior program administrator, Healthcentric Advisors. “Thousands of dedicated health care professionals have worked countless hours toward our goals and they deserve to be proud.”

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