



NEWS RELEASE

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Receives \$50,000 Award for Excellence in Medication Safety from the ASHP and Cardinal Health Foundations
Winning initiative improved medication safety for pediatric patients on antibiotics

Las Vegas, NV (Dec. 5, 2016) -- Last night, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in Ohio was honored with the 2016 Award for Excellence in Medication Safety by the ASHP Foundation and the Cardinal Health Foundation. The award is the only national honor that recognizes a pharmacist-led interprofessional team for implementing significant institution-wide improvements in medication safety.

At a ceremony held during the 2016 ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting in Las Vegas, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center received \$50,000 to further innovations in medication safety. Two finalists, Geisinger Chronic Pain Clinic in Danville, PA, and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in New York, NY, were also recognized and each received \$10,000.

"It is our hope that the finalists and recipients of this award will be an inspiration to other institutions looking to expand their medication safety efforts," said Stephen J. Allen, ASHP Foundation chief executive officer. "Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the two finalist organizations tackled tough challenges that confront every hospital and health system in the United States. This program is an opportunity to recognize those who make improvements that not only benefit their institutions, but the entire profession."

Bill Owad, senior vice president of Operational Excellence at Cardinal Health, said, "As the healthcare industry continues to face enormous changes, the role that pharmacists play in improving the safety and quality of care is more critical than ever. This year's Excellence in Medication Safety honorees address the key issues of better patient outcomes, cost containment and efficiency. The Cardinal Health Foundation applauds their work."

The award recipient and finalists were chosen by an interprofessional panel of reviewers who evaluated all applicants. Finalists were selected based on the initiative's scope, pharmacist leadership, planning and implementation, measurable outcomes and impact,

and innovation and generalizability. Reviewers visited each finalist's site before selecting the award recipient.

Awardees' Initiatives

2016 Recipient: [Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center](#)

Cincinnati, OH

Increasing Medication Safety for Pediatric Patients on Antibiotics

The use of vancomycin beyond 4 days of therapy for empiric courses creates a potentially unnecessary exposure to a nephrotoxic medication. Baseline data at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center indicated that an average of six inpatients a week develop acute kidney injuries during or within a week of discontinuing a vancomycin course. Additional baseline evidence suggested that extended courses of vancomycin may have been unintended. To address these safety and care issues, pharmacists partnered primarily with physicians to implement a multistep, quality improvement initiative. Integrated within an existing antimicrobial stewardship program and acute kidney injury reduction efforts, a core team of pharmacists, physicians, the chief medical resident and a quality improvement expert developed the goals and implemented interventions in a stepwise approach using plan-do-study-act cycles. Cincinnati Children's initiative had measurable results that:

- Decreased kidney injury associated with vancomycin exposure
- Decreased vancomycin exposure
- Decreased prolonged courses of vancomycin
- Increased oversight and approval for prolonged vancomycin exposure.

With their incremental and methodical approach, Cincinnati Children's was able to provide guidance on the use of vancomycin throughout the institution in a matter of minutes each day. Their initiative is a sustainable and scalable framework that guides appropriate and safe use of antimicrobials and can promote the safe and effective use of other medications.

2016 Finalist: [Geisinger Chronic Pain Clinic](#)

Danville, PA

Enhanced Chronic Pain Management: Multifaceted Team-Based Care

The Geisinger Chronic Pain Clinic (CPC) offers a new model that replaces the fragmented systems of care that chronic pain patients typically navigate. Baseline data from the CPC found that one in four outpatient visits were related to chronic pain. In 2013 the CPC saw more than 17,000 patients with chronic pain-related diagnoses. Most patients sought medical attention within the CPC's primary care service line. The CPC was the first of its kind on the East Coast to include a team of administrators, primary care and interventional pain physicians, pharmacists, registered nurses and social workers/addiction counselors. Development of the CPC focused on two areas: optimizing

safe, effective and appropriate management of pain with opioids and assuring competency of providers.

Using a team-based comprehensive approach, Geisinger's innovations demonstrated measurable outcomes that:

- Increased overall quality of care and patient functionality
- Decreased reliance on opioids
- Decreased overall cost of care.

The Geisinger CPC brought long-term value to patients and the community. The CPC is expanding to additional sites and the team is adding addiction-trained social workers. Geisinger's team-based approach is scalable and transferable to improve care and outcomes for patients and the larger community.

2016 Finalist: [NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital](#)

New York, NY

Utilizing Technology for a Patient-Centered Approach to Medication Education

Clinicians (pharmacists, physicians, nurses) and individuals from information technology and quality divisions partnered to transform a commercially available patient intake survey software into a medication-teaching tool. Their goal was to potentiate the safe use of medications for solid organ transplant patients. Results from studies by Medicare and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality reveal that one in five discharged patients will return to the hospital within 30 days, many resulting from an adverse drug event. Solid organ transplant recipients require numerous complex medication therapies that are critical to their post-transplant well-being.

NewYork-Presbyterian's innovation:

- Decreased re-admissions of kidney transplant recipients
- Increased patient empowerment and health literacy related to their medication regimens
- Increased outreach and efficiency of pharmacists in the medication teaching process
- Improved HCHAPS scores related to the information provided about medications.

Expansion of NewYork-Presbyterian's initiative to all organ transplant types in adult and pediatric populations is ongoing and includes the collection of additional quality metrics related to allograft outcomes. The concept of digital medication teaching is being integrated into general medicine and for patient populations at high-risk for readmission and for complications like heart failure and anticoagulation.

About the Award for Excellence in Medication Safety

The Award for Excellence in Medication Safety was established in 2004 to recognize on a national level pharmacy professionals who have assumed a leadership role in promoting

safety in the medication-use process. For more information regarding this award, visit www.ashpfoundation.org/excellenceaward. For details about the specific initiatives being recognized this year, visit www.ashpfoundation.org/2016AWEXFinalists.

About the ASHP Research and Education Foundation

The ASHP Research and Education Foundation (www.ashpfoundation.org) was established in 1968 by ASHP (www.ashp.org) as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. As the philanthropic arm of ASHP, our vision is that patient outcomes improve because of the leadership and clinical skills of pharmacists, as vital members of the healthcare team, accountable for safe and effective medication use. Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of patients through appropriate, safe and effective medication use.

About the Cardinal Health Foundation

The Cardinal Health Foundation supports local, national and international programs that improve health care efficiency, effectiveness and excellence and the overall wellness of the communities where Cardinal Health's (NYSE:CAH) more than 37,000 employees live and work. The Cardinal Health Foundation also offers grants to encourage community service among its employees and works through international agencies to donate much-needed medical supplies and funding to those who need them in times of disaster - because Cardinal Health is #AllInForGood. To learn more, visit www.CardinalHealth.com/community and visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CardinalHealthFoundation.

Contact Information

Barbara B. Nussbaum, R.Ph., M.S., Ph.D.

Vice President

ASHP Foundation

301-664-8736

bnussbaum@ashp.org

Bethany L. Coulter, M.A.

Director of Strategic Communications and Donor Relations

ASHP Foundation

301-664-8795

bcoulter@ashp.org