



For Immediate Release

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**SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES
GOLD LEVEL CQIA INNOVATION PRIZE**

(Hartford, CT) - Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has received a *2012 Gold Level CQIA Innovation Prize (CIP.)* The award was presented during the recent 25th Anniversary Conference of the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership.

The Gold Prize was awarded for the innovative work using operating room team training for the implementation of a safe surgery checklist. A team led by Scott Ellner, DO, and Cyndy Ross-Richardson, RN, developed a core curriculum that empowers operating room personnel to identify and prevent patient safety-compromising events within the peri-operative process. "We felt strongly that asking our OR staff to use the checklist without any formal training would be less effective. This was really about changing the culture in the operating room to a culture of high reliability and safety through team training," said Dr. Ellner, Director of Surgical Quality at Saint Francis.

Dr. Ellner was able to validate his team training program by demonstrating improved 30-day post-surgical outcomes results. There was a 70% reduction in the rate of overall surgical complications using the surgical checklist. In November, 2011, the Joint Commission identified Saint Francis as demonstrating "Best Practice" for its use of the Time Out which was a major part of this project.

Saint Francis is not new to CQIA. The Hospital previously won a CQIA Innovation Prize in 2011 for the Connecticut Institute for Primary Care Innovation, a collaborative enterprise with the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

"I am honored that many people from diverse industries including manufacturing, service, health care, high school and colleges, state agencies, WFSB Ch. 3 and CT Public Radio shared our significant day," says Sheila Carmine, founder and executive director of CQIA. "As further emphasis of CQIA's valued recognition in the State, three of our

morning speakers are presidents of major Connecticut organizations while senior vice presidents completed the speakers' roster," she added.

The *Connecticut Quality Improvement Award* is America's first state-level award using the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality and Innovation Award for Performance Excellence. The award is named for a former Connecticut CEO who led the U.S. Commerce Department during President Ronald Reagan's administration.

About Saint Francis Care

Saint Francis Care is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis Care include The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, and the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care. Its services are supported by a network of five major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit www.stfranciscare.com.