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IHI HOSTS THE WORLD'S LARGEST GATHERING ON HEALTH CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

**5,400 Health Care Professionals – An Increase Of 40 Percent Over Last Year – Are Attending
From 34 Countries, With Another 8,000 Joining by Satellite**

Event Marks Year Anniversary Of Groundbreaking National Initiative To Improve American Health Care

Orlando, FL – December 13, 2005 – The Institute for Healthcare Improvement's 17th *National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care* has drawn together 5,400 health care professionals from 34 countries – with another 8,000 joining by satellite – making it the largest gathering in the world of its kind. The increase in attendance reflects the growing commitment to quality improvement and the excitement around IHI's 100,000 Lives Campaign, which was launched at last year's Forum. The Forum is taking place in Orlando from December 11 to 14.

In his keynote speech today, Dr. Donald Berwick, President and CEO of IHI, highlighted the Campaign's accomplishments to date: the participation of 3,000 hospitals, representing an estimated 80 percent of the licensed hospital beds in the nation; the creation of a national network of hospitals, prominent national partners, and Campaign field offices that creates an infrastructure for ongoing improvement initiatives; and outstanding improvement results that are evident in the work of hospitals participating in the Campaign, such as:

- Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, CA, which has gone more than a year without a case of ventilator-associated pneumonia.
- Ridgeview Medical Center in Waconia, MN, which has had no central line infections in the past two years.
- North Country Regional Hospital in Bemidji, MN, which had no codes outside the ICU in the past eight months.
- Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, IL, which averages 68 minutes door-to-balloon time for coronary stents. The American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology's goal is 90 minutes.

The Campaign seeks to save 100,000 lives in U.S hospitals by June 2006, and, while the data collection on lives saved is still in the early stages, Dr. Berwick challenged those attending to push their institutions harder to achieve the goal.

“Throughout the Campaign, my colleagues and I have been amazed by the irrepressible enthusiasm and determination of countless health care leaders and frontline health care professionals from coast to coast,” stated Dr. Berwick. “Hospitals are introducing changes that promise to transform standards of patient care and reverberate throughout the entire health care system.”

“Campaign hospitals are demonstrating that breakthrough results are possible,” stated Joe McCannon, IHI’s 100,000 Lives Campaign Manager. “We are asking every participating facility to reaffirm their commitment to making the improvements that the Campaign promises to American patients and to save those lives. If we can do this we will introduce lasting changes in health care delivery that will remain after the June 2006 deadline.”

Hospitals participating in the Campaign commit to implementing some or all of the following six quality improvement changes:

- **Activate a Rapid Response Team** at the first sign that a patient’s condition is worsening and may lead to a more serious medical emergency.
- **Prevent patients from dying of heart attacks** by delivering evidence-based care, including appropriate administration of aspirin to prevent blood clots and Beta blockers to prevent further heart attacks.
- **Prevent medication errors** by ensuring that accurate and continually updated lists of patients’ medications are referenced during their hospital stay, particularly at transition points.
- **Prevent patients who are receiving medicines and fluids through central lines from developing infections** by following five steps, including proper hand washing and cleaning the patient’s skin with “chlorhexidine” (a type of soap).
- **Prevent patients undergoing surgery from developing infections** by following a series of steps, including the timely administration of antibiotics.
- **Prevent patients on ventilators from developing pneumonia** by following four steps, including raising the head of the patient’s bed between 30 and 40 degrees.

The 3,000 participating hospitals are located in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Please visit www.ihl.org/campaign to learn more about the campaign or to see a full list of participating hospitals (by state). The 100,000 Lives Campaign is supported through unrestricted philanthropy from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the Cardinal Health Foundation, the Colorado Trust, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Rx Foundation, Baxter International, the Blue Shield of California Foundation, and the Leeds Family Foundation. National aggregate case-mix data and analysis supporting the Campaign’s “lives saved” calculation is generously provided, without restriction for use, by CareScience (a QUOVADX division) and Solucient.

IHI’s National Forum addresses pressing health care delivery issues at more than 100 workshops and presentations on topics such as patient safety, patient-centeredness, workforce development, critical care, leadership and governance, innovation and implementation, patient flow, and office practice efficiency. This year’s Forum also includes sessions on the 100,000 Lives Campaign.

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) is a not-for-profit organization leading the improvement of health care throughout the world. Founded in 1991 and based in Boston, MA, IHI is a catalyst for change, cultivating innovative concepts for improving patient care and implementing programs for putting those ideas into action. Thousands of health care providers, including many of the finest hospitals in the world, participate in IHI’s groundbreaking work

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