



## NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contacts:**

Ross Norton

864.512.3765

[ross.norton1@anmedhealth.org](mailto:ross.norton1@anmedhealth.org)

## **AnMed Health and AnMed Health Cannon earn recognition for patient safety**

*(Anderson, S.C. – Oct. 24, 2017)* – AnMed Health and AnMed Health Cannon have earned seven Certified Zero Harm Awards from the South Carolina Hospital Association. The awards recognize excellent work in preventing hospital-acquired infections.

AnMed Health Medical Center picked up awards for preventing central line-associated blood infections for 12 months in Cardiovascular ICU and 24 months in Neurosurgical ICU. The Medical Center also earned two hospital-wide awards for prevention of surgical site infections – 12 months for knee replacements and 42 months for abdominal hysterectomies. AnMed Health Cannon picked up a Zero Harm Award for going 45 months in ICU without a central line-associated blood infection and two awards for preventing surgical site infections for 36 months – one for hip replacement and one for knee replacement.

Since 2014, SCHA has given out Zero Harm Awards to acknowledge hospitals that are on the forefront of preventing medical errors, which by some estimates is the third leading cause of death in the United States, with an economic impact that could reach \$1 trillion annually. Thanks to a collaboration with The Duke Endowment and The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Health, SCHA and South Carolina hospitals have taken part in a statewide effort to create a culture of high reliability and reduce harm in facilities by implementing robust, evidence-based practices that are making a positive impact on patients and the safety and quality of care.

To earn a Certified Zero Harm Award, hospitals must experience no preventable hospital-acquired infections of a specific nature over an extended period of time. All hospital data used for the awards is independently verified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and recognizes the exceptional

achievement the hospital or unit has made to the safety and quality of care within their facilities.

Lorri Gibbons, vice president for quality and safety at SCHA, the awards are all part of the Association's efforts to guide and support the state's hospitals in creating and sustaining highly reliable healthcare.

"Highly reliable" care is defined as dependable, high quality and safe care over a long period of time, something which is key to eliminating medical errors in hospitals.

"Celebrating milestones, such as zero infections within a given time frame, is a crucial part of our hospitals' collective journey to highly reliable healthcare," said Gibbons.

"Zero patient harm is possible only if physicians, clinical and support staff members work together. We're very proud of the AnMed Health and AnMed Health Cannon team members for their strong and shared commitment to patient safety. They are an inspiration to all hospitals across the state striving to provide measurable safety care for every patient," Gibbons added.

About the South Carolina Hospital Association Founded in 1921, the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) is the leadership organization and principal advocate for the state's hospitals and healthcare systems. Based in Columbia, SCHA works with its members to improve access, quality, and cost-effectiveness of health care for all South Carolinians. The state's hospitals and healthcare systems employ more than 70,000 persons statewide.

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