AnMed Health named among the nation’s “Most Wired” for the fourth consecutive year

(Anderson, S.C. – July 17, 2013) – AnMed Health has been recognized as one of the nation’s Most Wired hospitals and health systems, according to the 2013 Most Wired Survey. The survey results were released in the July issue of Hospitals & Health Networks magazine.

“This year’s Most Wired organizations exemplify progress through innovation” says Rich Umbdenstock, president and CEO of the American Hospital Association. “The hospital field can learn from these outstanding organizations ways that IT can help to improve efficiency.”

Among the key findings this year, 69 percent of Most Wired hospitals and 60 percent of all surveyed hospitals report that medication orders are entered electronically by physicians. This represents a significant increase from 2004 results when only 27 percent of Most Wired hospitals and 12 percent of all hospitals responded, “Yes.”

At AnMed Health, information technology is an integral part of providing care. Patient medical records have been electronic since 2000, and AnMed Health was the first in the state to implement PACS, a picture archiving and communication system that gives doctors and clinicians instant and remote access to radiology images. AnMed Health has also introduced speech recognition software that transforms dictated reports into electronic text, allowing radiologists to produce more accurate reports quickly and easily. Today, physicians routinely use a
computer-based portal to review monitor data, nursing documentation and diagnostic test results.

AnMed Health is in the process of bringing electronic health records to every owned doctor’s office. And in the hospital, handwritten orders are already a thing of the past. Physicians use a computerized physician order entry system (CPOE), which sends doctors’ orders directly to caregivers and departments without handwriting and legibility issues. On nursing units, nurses scan barcodes to ensure patients receive the right medicine in the right dose at the right time, and Horizon Perinatal Care allows caregivers to electronically document and store maternal vital signs and fetal tracings in obstetrical patients.

“We invest in information technology as a core part of our mission,” said Bill Manson, president and chief operating officer of AnMed Health. “Every day, doctors make hundreds of care decisions based on data – from vital signs to lab results to medication interactions. By using technology, we can help doctors get accurate information faster, which translates into a safer, more satisfying experience for our patients. It’s an excellent example of how we can optimize the health of our patients by passionately blending the art of caring with the science of medicine.”

Health Care’s Most Wired Survey, conducted between Jan. 15 and March 15, asked hospitals and health systems nationwide to answer questions regarding their IT initiatives. Respondents completed 659 surveys, representing 1,713 hospitals, or roughly 30 percent of all U.S. hospitals.

The July H&HN cover story detailing results is available at www.hhnmag.com.

About the AHA
The American Hospital Association (AHA) is the national organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities. Close to 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 40,000 individual members come together to form the AHA. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA website at www.aha.org.

About the Most Wired Survey
The 2013 Most Wired Survey is conducted in cooperation with McKesson Corp., AT&T, the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives, and the American Hospital Association.

About the Sponsors
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**The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)** is an executive organization dedicated to serving chief information officers and other senior health care IT leaders. With more than 1,400 CIO members and more than 85 health care IT vendors and professional services firms, CHIME provides a highly interactive, trusted environment enabling senior professional and industry leaders to collaborate; exchange best practices; address professional development needs; and advocate the effective use of information management to improve the health and health care in the communities they serve.

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