



NEWS RELEASE

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AnMed Health joins South Carolina Safe Care Commitment to improve patient safety

(Anderson, S.C. – Feb. 25, 2013) – AnMed Health today joined the South Carolina Safe Care Commitment, a multi-year engagement between the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare and the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) to strengthen processes, systems and structures, resulting in patient care that is consistently excellent and consistently safe. AnMed Health is joined in this engagement by 19 other hospitals from seven health systems located throughout the state.

By joining this engagement, AnMed Health will use techniques that other industries have long relied upon in order to find solutions to health care's toughest safety challenges. AnMed Health CEO John Miller and other executives from South Carolina hospitals will meet regularly to collaborate on processes to move health care toward the same highly reliable performance seen in aviation and nuclear power.

"Healthcare quality and safety have been at the core of our mission for more than 100 years," said Miller. "By participating in the South Carolina Safe Care Commitment we look forward to not only refining our own internal processes but also to developing tools that will improve the quality of care at hospitals and health systems across the state."

Success will be measured through the results of safety culture survey assessments and evidence that improvement activities have produced significant reductions in patient harm. In addition, AnMed Health will utilize a web-based electronic application created by the Center to identify critical practices leading to high reliability in health care and help hospitals assess their performance in these areas.

The collaboration between SCHA and the Center is part of the Center's efforts to solve health care's most critical safety and quality problems by creating solutions for progressing toward high reliability in health care. High reliability is defined as consistent performance at high levels of safety over long periods of time. In other words, highly reliable health care is care that is dependably excellent, every time, for every patient.

"South Carolina hospitals are already involved to great effect in a number of projects that target individual safety issues such as preventable infections. This engagement is different because it offers the potential to transform hospitals into far safer providers of health care in a permanent way," says Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP,

M.P.P., M.P.H., president, The Joint Commission and Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare. “We applaud the courage of the South Carolina Hospital Association and its participating hospitals for daring to strive for high reliability and aiming to achieve the ultimate goal of zero patient harm.”

“We at SCHA are very proud of our member hospitals’ exemplary collaborative work in the realm of quality improvement,” says Thornton Kirby, president and CEO, The South Carolina Hospital Association. “With the launch of South Carolina Safe Care Commitment, we are ready to move to the next level of patient safety. We look forward to working closely with the Joint Commission Center for Transforming Health Care along this exciting journey to achieve high reliability.”

Beyond the work of AnMed Health and other hospitals initially participating in the engagement, the work between the Center and SCHA is designed to improve safety and quality in health care organizations across South Carolina. The lessons learned about identifying the underlying causes of specific breakdowns in care and creating targeted solutions at participating hospitals will be spread to other health care organizations. This focus on offering targeted, tested solutions has been a hallmark of the Center, which has through its Targeted Solutions Tool™ provided a step-by-step process to assist accredited health care organizations in measuring performance, identifying barriers to excellent performance, and implementing the Center’s proven solutions that are customized to address specific barriers.

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