

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AnMed Health recognized for patient safety record

(COLUMBIA – April 8, 2014) AnMed Health and the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) today announced the health system has received the South Carolina “Certified Zero Harm Award” to recognize excellent performance in patient safety.

Certified Zero Harm Awards are given when a hospital records no preventable hospital-acquired infections of a specific nature during a certain period of time. The data is then independently verified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). The awards are presented at statewide SCHA meetings twice each year.

“We’re pleased with the progress we’ve made but we’ll never be content that we have done all we can to protect our patients. Even when we do have a perfect streak, we look for ways to improve patient safety practices,” said Dr. Tom Kayrouz, AnMed Health vice president of medical affairs.

The award is part of the association’s efforts to guide and support the state’s hospitals in creating and sustaining highly reliable health care – meaning patient care that is dependable, high quality and safe over a long period of time, similar to the consistent results achieved by other high-consequence industries such as aviation and nuclear power.

“We feel that publicly celebrating hospitals that have reached the milestone of zero infections within a given time frame is a crucial part of our collective journey to highly reliable health care,” said Rick Foster, MD, senior vice president for quality and patient safety, South Carolina Hospital Association.

“Zero patient harm can be accomplished only through purposeful, ongoing collaborative work among physicians, clinical and support staff. The AnMed Health team has effectively demonstrated their strong shared commitment to patient safety.”

“We are very proud of AnMed Health’s exemplary performance in quality improvement,” said Thornton Kirby, president and CEO, South Carolina Hospital Association. “We hope their success will serve as an inspiration to all South Carolina hospitals striving to provide measurably safer care for every patient, every time.”

For more information on the SCHA Certified Zero Harm Award please contact Rick Foster, MD, senior vice president for quality and patient safety, South Carolina Hospital Association, at 803.744.3538 or rfoster@scha.org.

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About AnMed Health

AnMed Health is a 690-bed, not-for-profit health system serving the Upstate and northeast Georgia. The system is anchored by AnMed Health Medical Center, a 461-bed acute care hospital. AnMed Health also has a satellite North Campus which includes the AnMed Health Women’s and Children’s Hospital, the AnMed Health Rehabilitation Hospital, a comprehensive Cancer Center, physician offices and the Cardiac and Orthopedic Center. The health system’s network also includes affiliations with Cannon Memorial Hospital in Pickens, Elbert Memorial Hospital in Elberton, Ga., and Carolinas HealthCare System in Charlotte. With roughly 500 physicians and more than 3,600 employees, AnMed Health is Anderson County’s largest employer. Learn more about us online at www.AnMedHealth.org.

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. Learn more about SCHA at www.scha.org.