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

(Anderson, S.C. – Aug. 12, 2014) – AnMed Health has been recognized as one of the nation’s Most Wired hospitals and health systems, according to the 2014 Most Wired Survey. The survey results were released in the July issue of Hospitals & Health Networks magazine.

The Most Wired hospitals are better positioned to improve patient care and safety, according to the American Hospital Association.

“The Most Wired data show that shared health information allows clinicians and patients to have the information they need to promote health and make the most informed decisions about treatments,” says Rich Umbdenstock, president and CEO of the American Hospital Association. “Hospitals, their clinicians and their communities are doing tremendous work to enhance their IT systems in ways that support care and delivery improvement, and patient engagement goals.”

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 view clinical data such as laboratory results, medications, vitals, radiology and cardiology results and images, and nursing documentation.

AnMed Health patients have secure online access to their hospital-based inpatient and outpatients health information through My.AnMedHealth, a patient portal that allows
patients to view laboratory, radiology and cardiology test results, and to view and update their medication and allergy lists.

Over the last four years, AnMed Health has implemented a network-wide electronic health records (EHR) system in the physician practices. Now, nearly every AnMed Health practice utilizes the same enterprise-wide EHR, and patient charts are shared among primary care and specialty providers. Shared clinical data reduces redundancies in the health care system and provides better patient safety. Patients of the physician network can also access their information via the My.AnMedHealth portal and interact with their physician offices to request appointments, request prescription refills and ask general medical questions.

Physicians at AnMed Health 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 the perinatal care system allows caregivers to electronically document and store maternal vital signs and fetal tracings in obstetrical patients.

“Information technology is a core part of our mission because it allows us to make significant improvements in patient safety,” said Bill Manson, president and chief operating officer of AnMed Health. “The federal government placed significant incentives on hospitals to adopt and meaningfully electronic health records. Meeting the first deadline was a huge challenge for the entire industry, but at AnMed Health, we delivered. I’m pleased with how far we’ve come and with where we’re going with electronic records.”

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

About the AHA
The AHA is a nonprofit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, and other providers of care. 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 2014 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
McKesson Corp., currently ranked 15th on the Fortune500, is a healthcare services and information technology company dedicated to making the business of healthcare run better. The company partners with payers, hospitals, physician offices, pharmacies, pharmaceutical companies and others across the spectrum of care to build healthier organizations that deliver better care to patients in every setting. McKesson helps its customers to improve their financial, operational and clinical performance with
solutions that include pharmaceutical and medical-surgical supply management, healthcare information technology, and business and clinical services. For more information, visit www.mckesson.com.

AT&T Inc. is a premier communications holding company and one of the most honored companies in the world. Its subsidiaries and affiliates – AT&T operating companies – are the providers of AT&T services in the United States and internationally. With a powerful array of network resources that includes the nation’s most reliable 4G LTE network, AT&T is a leading provider of wireless, Wi-Fi, high speed Internet, voice and cloud-based services. A leader in mobile Internet, AT&T also offers the best wireless coverage worldwide of any U.S. carrier, offering the most wireless phones that work in the most countries. It also offers advanced TV service with the AT&T U-verse® brand. The company's suite of IP-based business communications services is one of the most advanced in the world.

The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) is an executive organization dedicated to serving chief information officers and other senior healthcare IT leaders. With more than 1,400 CIO members and more than 85 healthcare 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 healthcare in the communities they serve. For more information, visit http://www.cio-chime.org.

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. AnMed Health is a Magnet® hospital, the highest recognition in nursing. Cannon Memorial Hospital, located in Pickens, S.C., is the most recent addition to the four-hospital system. The health system’s network also includes affiliations with 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.

###