

# Mapping Quality: How the IHI's New Initiative Can Help Iowa Hospitals

Iowa hospitals have made great strides in their commitment to quality and patient safety. Impressive progress has been made in eliminating infections, reducing ventilator-associated pneumonia, central line infection, medication errors and implementation of rapid response teams ... to name only a few interventions that have been deployed. Iowa's success in vaccinating healthcare workers is unprecedented as we strive to reach a goal of 95% hospital employees vaccinated by 2010. Nonetheless, patients continue to suffer avoidable harm during their care. The quality journey is difficult to navigate because of increased demands, never ending regulations and intensifying financial constraints.

At the December 2008 annual meeting of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), Dr. Don Berwick, President and CEO of IHI, announced a way to achieve the highest levels of performance in the areas that matter most to patients. The vehicle is called the **Improvement Map**. The map is a tool to help find reliable ways to enable hospital leaders to establish priorities, organize work, and optimize resources. The Improvement Map will enable hospitals to improve their performance in relation to IHI's original twelve initiatives from the 5 Million Lives Campaign. This agenda will now be expanded to include three new interventions:

- WHO surgical safety checklist
- Prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract infections
- Linkage of quality and financial management with strategies to engage the chief financial officer and provide value for patients

The Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) intends to continue to serve Iowans and their hospitals in promoting use of the Improvement Map. IHC's commitment to the implementation of the Improvement Map is important. It promotes the use of this important tool for improvement. It also provides Iowa hospitals with knowledgeable state-level support to work with Iowa hospitals in deployment of the tool.

The Improvement Map was launched in September and is available to all hospitals free of charge. It can be found online at: <http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Programs/ImprovementMap>.

## SUCCESS SNAPSHOT

### Iowa Recognized as Standout Node

Through the dedication and effort of healthcare workers across the state, Iowa has seen great improvements in health care delivery throughout the 5 Million Lives (5M) campaign of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). And the work that has been done is not going without notice.

This year, the IHI selected Iowa as one of a handful of elite 5M 'nodes' that have conducted particularly outstanding work. This honor reflects the willingness of providers and health care delivery systems to work together for the betterment of all patients.

All healthcare staff who have worked diligently toward the goals of the 5M campaign should be proud of what they have accomplished and continue to strive for improvement within the healthcare delivery system to raise the standard of care within our state.