



People you know. Care you trust.

401 North Ewing Street
Lancaster, Ohio 43130
www.fmchealth.org

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Donna Stalter
Fairfield Medical Center
Public Relations Specialist
(740) 687-8108
donnas@fmchealth.org

(For immediate release)

FAIRFIELD MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES GRANT FROM CARDINAL HEALTH FOUNDATION AS PART OF THE SOLUTIONS FOR PATIENT SAFETY INITIATIVE TO MAKE OHIO THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE NATION FOR HEALTHCARE

LANCASTER, Ohio (September 15, 2009) – Fairfield Medical Center and 24 other hospitals have joined together in the Solutions for Patient Safety partnership to improve health care quality and reduce the overall cost of health care in Ohio.

Each of the 25 hospitals involved in the partnership have implemented specific programs to reduce health care-associated infections (HAIs) and medication errors. The hospitals then share information within and across institutions and work to replicate best practices and outcomes with providers in Ohio and nationwide.

Fairfield Medical Center has been awarded a grant of \$18,400 from the Cardinal Health Foundation's \$1.5 million initial investment in the *Solutions for Patient Safety* initiative.

The Solutions for Patient Safety partnership is backed by the Cardinal Health Foundation, the Ohio Business Roundtable, the Central Ohio Hospital Council, the Ohio Hospital Association, and the Ohio Children's Hospital Association. The partnership has identified goals for reducing healthcare associated-infections and medication errors at Central Ohio hospitals and Ohio's children's hospitals.

"As part of this initiative, Fairfield Medical Center is fully supporting this effort, making patient safety a priority and ensuring that patients in our hospitals get the care they deserve for many, many years to come," said Mina Ubbing, president and CEO, Fairfield Medical Center. "It is a complex and group effort that I am proud to say we are a part of. I believe we can achieve our goal of becoming the best place in the nation for care, we just have to work together to do so, and this is the first step."

Central Ohio hospitals, including Fairfield Medical Center, are in the process of focusing on two specific goals – reducing catheter-associated blood borne infections and reducing health care-associated methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections. Central Ohio hospitals began working together on collaborative projects to improve health care quality in June 2003. The central Ohio collaborative is one of several managed and operated by the Ohio Hospital Association's Quality Institute.

Fairfield Medical Center has already put in place many core measures to help improve patient safety at the Center and meet the above objectives. Specifically, Fairfield Medical Center has been constantly monitoring catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs) through monthly surveillance. A CAUTI Awareness Program was initiated at the Center just last year. Such a program has showed tremendous results, leading to a reduction in CAUTIs.

Staff at Fairfield Medical Center also closely monitors healthcare-associated MRSA infections. Fairfield Medical Center Infection Control Practitioner, Donna Hedges commented, "The Center performs active surveillance on all multi-drug resistant organisms, which includes methicillin resistant staph aureus. Such surveillance is high on our priority list." Hedges further added that she is very glad to be a part of this project, stating, "Fairfield Medical Center's mission statement reflects the importance of safety and high quality health care for people in the community. For this reason, it is crucial for Fairfield Medical Center to partner in the Solutions for Patient Safety project and is very appreciative to the Cardinal Health Foundation for assisting us in this endeavor."

###