



MHA Keystone Center  
for Patient Safety  
& Quality

*Bringing health care  
providers together  
with information,  
resources and  
collaborative  
opportunities to bridge  
the quality chasm*

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## MHA Keystone Launches New Initiative to Reduce Infections in Michigan Hospitals

*Collaborative Will Improve Patient Safety, Reduce Health Care Costs*

**LANSING, Mich.** — A new initiative to reduce infections acquired by patients in Michigan hospitals was launched today by the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality. The center was established in 2003 to boost patient safety and health care quality.

“Controlling and preventing infections is a patient safety priority for Michigan’s hospitals and permeates every aspect of hospital care,” said MHA President Spencer Johnson. “Hospitals understand that better and safer care, faster recovery, improved comfort for patients, and lower health care costs all come from reducing and preventing infections.”

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan has provided significant funding for the new MHA Keystone patient safety initiative, called *Keystone: Hospital-Acquired Infections* — or *Keystone: HAI*. The first year will be spent determining the data to be collected and engaging hospitals, and the second year will be marked by collecting data and feedback and implementing solutions. The first public report will be made in 2008.

Michael Schwartz, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan senior vice president for network relations, contracting and pharmacy services, said “We are pleased to partner with MHA and Michigan hospitals on this new initiative that will enhance health care value. With *Keystone: HAI*, we hope to see results similar to the *Keystone: ICU* project — fewer infections, better patient outcomes and reduced hospital costs as a result of fewer infection incidences.”

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*Keystone: ICU*, believed to be the largest patient safety collaborative of its kind in the world, was launched in March 2004 to improve patient safety and health care quality by reducing errors in Michigan hospital intensive care units. Between March 2004 and June 2005, *Keystone: ICU* saved more than 1,500 lives and \$165.5 million in health care costs in Michigan hospitals.

With more than 120 Michigan ICUs and 70 Michigan hospitals participating, *Keystone: ICU* has attracted attention and accolades from health care providers, quality improvement experts and media nationwide.

“Michigan hospitals participating in the *Keystone: ICU* project have achieved stunning and important reductions in hospital acquired infections,” said David Share, MD, MPH, clinical director for the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Center for Health Care Quality and Evaluative Studies. “We are thrilled about the Keystone Center expanding its related quality improvements to encompass patients in general medical and surgical wards in hospitals throughout the state.”

The MHA Keystone Center’s success is a product of its ability to provide evidence-based, “best-practice” interventions to participating hospitals aimed at making care safer. This, coupled with the gathering of data and sharing it with hospitals and doctors, supports improving the quality of care, enhancing the culture of safety and staff satisfaction, and eliminating unnecessary or avoidable costs. It translates and expedites research into applicable interventions for patient safety improvements at the bedside.

“It’s important to understand that physicians and nurses are fighting a never-ending battle against an invisible enemy,” said Christine Goeschel, RN, MPA, MPS, executive director of the MHA Keystone Center. “Health care-associated infections are costly, far too common, and sometimes lethal. The unique efforts of the Keystone Center are focused not only on collecting data about infections, but more importantly on working collaboratively with hospitals to eliminate them.”

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With *Keystone: HAI*, the MHA Keystone Center is now operating four patient safety and health care quality improvement initiatives. The other three are *Keystone: ICU*; *Keystone: Stroke*, to reduce the incidence of strokes and to ensure that appropriate care is delivered to patients who suffer them; and *Keystone: Gift of Life*, to boost organ donations and save lives.

Improving patient safety by reducing medical errors is an increasing priority of health care providers, the business community, and state and federal elected leaders. Goeschel recently testified about the MHA Keystone Center at a hearing of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, chaired by U.S. Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Kentucky. The title of the congressional hearing was “Public Reporting of Hospital-Acquired Infections Rates: Empowering Patients, Saving Lives.”

“Hospitals are in favor of sharing information about infections with consumers,” Johnson said. “The information shared should focus on infections that have the potential for the greatest consequences to patients, areas where clinically proven prevention efforts exist, and areas where solid data exists. This move to voluntarily collaborate on efforts to eliminate HAIs will once again demonstrate that Michigan is a leader in patient safety and quality.”

*The Michigan Health & Hospital Association’s Keystone Center for Patient Safety & Quality was created in March 2003 as a 501(c)(3) division of the MHA Health Foundation and is headquartered at the MHA in Lansing. MHA Keystone brings together hospitals, national experts and best practice evidence to improve patient safety by addressing the quality of health care delivery at the bedside. Keystone: ICU exists through an ongoing and innovative partnership with patient safety experts at The Johns Hopkins University. For more information, please visit [www.MHAKeystoneCenter.org](http://www.MHAKeystoneCenter.org).*

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