

CMC/DHK Wins National Award for Clinical Excellence

Orlando, Florida- VHA, Inc, a national healthcare network, has given Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene a 2010 VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence, honoring the hospital for meeting or exceeding national performance standards for clinical care.

Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene recently received the award at the Annual VHA Leadership Conference held in Orlando, Florida. CMC/DHK was one of only eight United States hospitals to receive this recognition and only one in five to receive the award in all four categories.

The VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence recognizes hospitals for improving clinical quality, patient safety or the patient experience. The 2010 winners met defined standards for patient care throughout multiple quarters for their superior system performance, with composite scores in the top quartile across four clinical areas: acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, pneumonia and surgical infection prevention. The VHA Leadership Award is the highest level of recognition bestowed by VHA for clinical care.

President and Chief Administrative Officer Arthur Nichols said of the national recognition, "We are extremely proud of our quality and safety record. To know we were only one of a small number of hospitals in the nation to receive this award reaffirms our resolve to provide high quality care and to let our care and caring serve as the basis for making ours the healthiest community in the nation by the year 2020." President and Chief Medical Officer, John Schlegelmilch, MD adds, "The VHA Leadership Award, coming on the heels of being recognized as the NH Healthcare Business of the Decade, allows us to truly believe we have the people and the know-how necessary to lead in the areas of clinical quality, patient safety and service excellence. We feel this leadership will be invaluable to us, and to our community, as we enter the new age of healthcare reform and culture change."

VHA Inc., based in Irving Texas, is a national network of not-for-profit health care organizations that work together to drive maximum savings in the supply chain arena, set new levels of clinical performance and identify and implement best practices to improve operational efficiency and clinical outcomes. Formed in 1977, through its 16 regional offices, VHA serves more than 1,400 hospitals and more than 28,000 non-acute care providers nationwide.

L to R: Colleen Risk, Executive VP Clinical Improvement Services, VHA, Inc.; Paula Hudon, Director of Education, Training & Development, CMC/DHK; Rachael Ellsworth, Director of CM/QI, CMC/DHK; Curt Nonomaque, President & CEO of VHA, Inc.; Pamela Brown, Quality Improvement Coordinator, CMC/DHK; and Dr. Trent Haywood, Chief Medical Officer & Sr. VP, VHA, Inc.