

June 28, 2011  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: GENIE ALICE CAUSEY  
(662) 377-2371

### NMMC-IUKA RECOGNIZED FOR HIGH-VALUE CARE DELIVERY

IUKA, Miss.—North Mississippi Medical Center-Iuka has been recognized by a national health care alliance for reducing harm, mortality and cost of care, while increasing patient satisfaction and adherence to clinical evidence.

NMMC-Iuka is one of only six hospitals in the nation, and the only one in Mississippi, to receive the Premier health care alliance's inaugural QUEST Award for High Value Healthcare for reaching the top performance thresholds in Premier's QUEST®: High Performing Hospitals collaborative in these five areas:

- Mortality: Eliminate avoidable hospital deaths.
- Cost of care: Safely reduce the cost of care for each patient's hospitalization.
- Evidence-based care: Deliver the most reliable and effective care based on national guidelines that follow proven practices.
- Harm: Improve patient safety by preventing harm in 25 categories, including infections.
- Patient experience: Improve the patient's overall care experience.

NMMC-Iuka improved the delivery of recommended evidence-based care measures by approximately 16 percent as a participant in the voluntary QUEST collaborative. Evidence-based care measures include interventions such as administering aspirin upon arrival and discharge and smoking cessation for heart attack patients.

In doing so, NMMC-Iuka reduced its case mix and inflation adjusted cost by an average of \$200 per patient while reducing harm in its organization through initiatives designed to prevent patient injury such as fall and pressure ulcer prevention. Additionally, with targeted improvements, the hospital's patient satisfaction scores have increased since joining QUEST.

"NMMC-Iuka is proud to receive the QUEST Award," said Fred Truesdale, administrator. "We are determined to deliver the best care to our patients by operating in an environment with the safest, highest quality practices possible. Patient-centeredness is our responsibility and we're happy to accept this honor."

Fred Truesdale accepted the award at Premier's annual Breakthroughs Conference and Exhibition in Nashville, Tenn., on June 15.

QUEST members participating since 2009 (185 of today's 250 participants) were eligible for the award. Top performance thresholds were established at the top quartile of performance from a baseline period in all measures except cost of care, which was based on the median of the total inpatient cost per case mix adjusted discharge. Top performance for each dimension varied depending on the unique measure calculation and methodology.

"NMMC-Iuka is being recognized for their continuous achievements in providing the best care possible," said Premier President and CEO Susan DeVore. "They've been engaged in and dedicated to a nationwide improvement collaborative designed to achieve cost-effective, evidence-based care delivery, thereby improving outcomes, reducing mortality and harm and providing the best experience they can for their patients."

In the first 30 months of the collaborative, QUEST hospitals saved an estimated 25,235 lives and \$2.85 billion in costs.

Their observed mortality is 5 percent lower than non-participants when compared to what is expected, having dropped 23 percent. Furthermore, national costs for inpatient care have increased by 21 percent over the course of the project, compared to a mere 4 percent cost increase among the QUEST hospitals.

Premier is a performance improvement alliance of more than 2,500 U.S. hospitals and 75,000-plus other healthcare sites using the power of collaboration to lead the transformation to high quality, cost-effective care. Owned by hospitals, health systems and other providers, Premier maintains the nation's most comprehensive repository of clinical, financial and outcomes information and operates a leading healthcare purchasing network. A world leader in helping deliver measurable improvements in care, Premier has worked with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the United Kingdom's National Health Service North West to improve hospital performance. Headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., Premier also has an office in Washington.