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HACKLEY HOSPITAL ICU RECEIVES NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT SAFETY AWARD

Muskegon, MI, November 16, 2006 -- Hackley Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU) has received the 2006 Baxter Excellence in Patient Safety Award from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). Hackley Hospital ICU is one of three intensive care units in the nation to be recognized for patient care teams that have made significant contributions toward patient and caregiver safety in acute and critical care.

This Award recognizes the ICU team for its achievements made through innovative approaches for patient safety and quality of care. Key to the Hackley ICU success was active collaboration among team members supported by evidence-based outcomes for improvements. Specific initiatives introduced in the Hackley Hospital ICU included extensive infection prevention measures and new internal communication practices designed to better coordinate care and improve communication among all patient caregivers.

"Every patient deserves to get the possible care in the safest environment," says Bruce Olson, M.D., Director Infectious Diseases. "Patient safety is a priority and we constantly seek improvement in the quality delivery of health care," he continued. The ICU cross-functional team is comprised of physicians, nurses, managers, dieticians and pharmacists.

As a foundation of its quality patient care focus, Hackley Hospital ICU also participated in the "Keystone: ICU" initiative conducted with the Johns Hopkins University. This national project is aimed at reducing infections and pneumonia in the intensive care unit. "Keystone is all about saving lives by increased communication and applying the best clinical practices," says Lori Muellerleile, Director of Nursing Operations.

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) is the largest specialty nursing organization in the world, representing more than 400,000 critical care nurses. (www.aacn.org)

Founded in 1902, Hackley Hospital is an acute care, community not-for-profit hospital providing extensive medical services including the lakeshore's only comprehensive Cancer Center, a renowned Emergency Department, an inpatient Psychiatric Unit and Muskegon's largest Occupational Health Center. Hackley Hospital is a member of the Hackley Health System which consists of the region's largest Primary Care network, Visiting Nurse Services and Hospice, Hackley Lakeshore Hospital of Shelby, Hackley Life Counseling, Hackley Pharmacies, Hackley Healthcare Equipment, Hackley Health Management, Hackley Hearing Center and Hackley Orthotics and Prosthetics. (www.hackley.org)

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