

The Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA) is pleased to announce that Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte is a recipient of the 2012 Quest for Excellence award.

The Quest for Excellence award is a joint initiative of the Nebraska Hospital Association (NHA), CIMRO of Nebraska, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Association for Healthcare Quality, Risk and Safety. The Award showcases exemplary and reproducible models of patient care to the rest of the health care community. This was the ninth year for the award, designed to recognize and reward hospitals for their quality improvement achievements.

In addition to the award plaque, each winning hospital received a \$1,000 cash prize.

Great Plains Regional Medical Center (GPRMC) was recognized for the successful implementation of a process to reduce medication administration errors using technology.

GPRMC's quality improvement project resulted in a significant reduction in medication administration errors and elimination of harmful medication errors.

The results demonstrated active administrative support, education and training, utilization of technology and electronic documentation and, ultimately, an impressive decrease in medication administration errors, sustained over time.

In the award application, Great Plains Regional Medical Center stated, "GPRMC has successfully implemented medication barcode scanning which has improved patient safety by reducing the number of medication administration errors occurring in our facility. Decreasing medication errors and increasing scanning compliance rates show that this change is sustainable and has been hardwired into the workflow of the nursing staff. This initiative is an excellent example of GPRMC's mission to provide the kind of health care we would want for our families, in partnership with those we serve."

"One out of four medical errors involve medication," said Laurie Ryan, director of performance and clinical outcomes at Great Plains Regional Medical Center, "This award is evidence of our commitment to improve the safety of giving medications at GPRMC."