2002 Ernest Amory Codman Award Recipient

Organization Award: Multiple Organization Iowa Health System
Des Moines, Iowa

For its initiative: "Diabetes Statewide Initiative"

The 11 senior affiliate hospitals of the Iowa Health System joined together to develop a quality improvement process for delivering high quality diabetes care as evidenced by measurable outcomes. To reduce Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) levels and control chronic diabetes, the collaborative 1) adopted a standardized curriculum for Type 2 diabetes for patients and caregivers; 2) adopted uniform standards of care based on national quality standards; 3) provided staff training in patient education, data collection, chart abstraction, data entry, and behavior evaluation; and 4) introduced the use of reminder calls to patients for return appointments.

As a result of this initiative, HbA1c has been reduced to near-normal levels of 7 percent for the patients in the system. The reduction in HbA1c is estimated to reduce the risk of further patient complications by 30-60 percent. The work of this multidisciplinary team has paved the way for implementing other disease specific quality improvement programs, including programs for asthma, congestive heart failure, community acquired pneumonia, total joint replacement and acute myocardial infarction.

Participating organizations in the initiative:

- Iowa Health System, Des Moines
- Allen Hospital, Waterloo
- Central Iowa Health System, Des Moines
- The Finley Hospital, Dubuque
- St. Luke's Hospital, Cedar Rapids
- St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Sioux City
- Trinity Regional Health System, Quad Cities
- Trinity Regional Medical Center