



*A Member of
Catholic Health East,
Sponsored by the
Sisters of Mercy*

Contact: Kate Kreger
Director Marketing & Communications
St. James Mercy Hospital
607-324-8233 kkreger@sjmh.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Hospital Scores in Top 10% for Patient Safety

June 25, 2013...Hornell, NY...St. James Mercy Hospital (SJMH) was recently recognized for its efforts to reduce the number of Hospital-Acquired Infections (HAI's), scoring in the top 10% of facilities nationwide.

The HAI's are tracked by Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) through the National Healthcare Safety Network and IPRO, the not-for-profit Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for New York State. Three HAI's are tracked – Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI), Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI), and Hospital acquired C. difficile infections (HO-CDI).

According to a report covering October 2012 to March 2013, SJMH's acute/ICU units had zero cases of CLABSI, zero cases of CAUTI, and only one case of HO-CDI. "These are extraordinary results and places SJMH in the top 10% of comparable hospitals in NYS and across the nation," said Trish Uldrich, Chief Nursing Officer. "SJMH's HAI rates have been consistently low for the last three years due to our safety efforts, including outstanding infection control procedures in the OR, at the bedside, and in the central sterile department."

"An excellent hospital starts with excellent staff," said Pat Butray-Frey, Infection Prevention Officer. "At SJMH we take pride in our employees and the service they provide, and have a very aggressive, proactive system-wide program in place to help protect our patients from infection. Our efforts include a wide array of practices from encouraging hand hygiene for staff and visitors at SJMH facilities, to the use of checklists, to bundling medical supplies so that it is easy for hospital staff to follow infection-prevention protocols."

Patients and their family members are encouraged to become active participants in SJMH's infection prevention initiatives. "As a reminder to help prevent infection, we encourage patients and family members to wash your hands often, insist that your health care provider wash his or her hands, and ask the care provider if the patient's central line or Foley catheter is still needed," said Butray-Frey. "We thank our physicians, nurses, central sterile staff, and housekeeping staff for their unwavering commitment to patient safety!"

For more information about the SJMH's patient safety initiatives visit www.StJamesMercy.org/quality.shtml .

###