



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHI St. Joseph's Health Achieves Minnesota Antibiotic Stewardship Honor Roll

The award graphic is a yellow ribbon with a gold border. On the left, it says "Collaboration" in a large, black, cursive font, followed by "2019 GOLD AWARD" and "Minnesota Antibiotic Stewardship Honor Roll" in smaller black text. On the right is a circular gold seal with a ribbon tail. The seal contains the text "Minnesota ONE HEALTH Antibiotic Stewardship Collaborative" and icons for "ANIMALS", "PEOPLE", and "ENVIRONMENT".

CHI St. Joseph's Health

has demonstrated commitment, implemented evidence-based actions, and advanced antibiotic stewardship in Minnesota through external collaboration.

Ruth Lynfield
Ruth Lynfield, M.D.
State Epidemiologist and Medical Director
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Enyinnaya N. Merengwa
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Antibiotic Stewardship Program Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Health

PARK RAPIDS, MN (March 30, 2019) – The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) highlighted efforts to fight antibiotic resistance through antibiotic

stewardship and recognized CHI St. Joseph's Health as an honoree of the **Minnesota Antibiotic Stewardship Honor Roll for Hospitals.**

Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria change in a way that reduces the effectiveness of drugs, chemicals, or other agents designed to cure or prevent infections. There are an increasing number of bacteria that have become resistant to antibiotics in recent decades primarily due to overuse of those antibiotic drugs.

As a way to fight antibiotic resistance, health officials are focusing on the importance of antibiotic stewardship. Thirty-two hospitals in Minnesota have shown their commitment for antibiotic stewardship receiving bronze, silver or gold achievements. CHI St. Joseph's Health is one, receiving the gold level award for their collaboration efforts, action and commitment to the efforts. CHI St. Joseph's Health previously received the silver award in 2017.

Physician Leader Nathan Harris, MD, Pharmacist Leader Jodi Behrens, PharmD and the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee at CHI St. Joseph's Health consistently communicate with patients, family, staff, and the public about antibiotic use. Additional antibiotic stewardship actions include the Hospitalist and staff (including pharmacy) holding daily (M-F) local antimicrobial "huddles" during the discharge planning meetings to confer about all patient issues. A pharmacist-driven automatic IV to PO policy was initiated in 2018.

For their collaborative activity focus, CHI St. Joseph's Health hosted a Sepsis and Antimicrobial Stewardship Lunch and Learn in which 35 different local community agencies/departments were invited, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, clinics, hospice, and home care organizations. The program consisted of a presentation and open panel discussions in order to start a community

discussion and is planned to be an annual event. The inaugural event served to establish relationships among organizations, and long-term care facilities are encouraged to use CHI St. Joseph's Health as a resource for antibiotic stewardship consultation when needed.

A description of the **MDH Antibiotic Stewardship Honor Roll** program and a full list of the names of the honor roll hospitals can be found at:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/onehealthabx/honor/honorac.html>

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About CHI St. Joseph's Health

CHI St. Joseph's Health is a 25-bed critical access hospital serving communities in Hubbard, Becker, Cass and Wadena Counties since 1946. In recent years, CHI St. Joseph's Health's award-winning teams received several national honors including: The Joint Commission Top Performer on Key Quality Measures in surgery; Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, HealthStrong; WomenCertified's America's Best Hospitals Women's Choice Award in obstetrics; and the Studer Group Fire Starter Healthcare Organization of the Month among other national, regional and state recognitions.

About CHI

Catholic Health Initiatives, a nonprofit, faith-based health system formed in 1996 through the consolidation of four Catholic health systems, expresses its mission each day by creating and nurturing healthy communities in the hundreds of sites across the nation where we provide care. The nation's third-largest nonprofit health system, Englewood, Colorado-based CHI operates in 18 states and comprises 103 hospitals, including four academic health centers and major teaching hospitals as well as 30 critical-access facilities; community health-services organizations; accredited nursing colleges; home-health agencies; living communities; and other facilities and services that span the inpatient and outpatient continuum of care. In fiscal year 2015, CHI provided almost \$970 million in charity care and community benefit - an 8% increase over the previous year -- for programs and services for the poor, free clinics, education and research. Charity care and community benefit totaled more than \$1.6 billion with the inclusion of the unpaid costs of Medicare. The health system, which generated operating revenues of \$15.2 billion in fiscal year 2015, has total assets of approximately \$23 billion. Learn more at www.catholichealthinitiatives.org.

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