Eisenhower Named Among Nation's Most Wired Hospitals

More than 1,500 hospitals considered for prestigious award

Eisenhower Medical Center has been named as one of 154 of the nation's Most Wired hospitals according to the results of the 2012 Most Wired Survey Benchmarking Study released in the July issue of Hospitals & Health Networks, the journal of the American Hospital Association (AHA).

According to the study, the nation's Most Wired hospitals are leveraging the adoption and use of health information technology (IT) to improve performance in a number of areas. As a theme, hospitals are focused on expanding and adopting IT that protects patient data, and optimizes patient flow, and communications.

Health Care's Most Wired Survey asked hospitals and health systems nationwide to answer questions regarding their IT initiatives. Respondents representing 1,570 hospitals were considered for the award.

"We are proud of the work we have accomplished as a team and are honored to be recognized as a Most Wired hospital," says Steven Arendt, MD, Chief Medical Information Officer, Eisenhower Medical Center. "Our continued strategic investments in information technology over the past decade have truly enhanced our ability to provide excellent patient care, as well as, enhance quality and patient safety."

Among the key findings this year:

• Ninety-three percent of Most Wired hospitals employ intrusion detection systems to protect patient privacy and security of patient data, in comparison to 77 percent of the total responders.
• Seventy-four percent of Most Wired hospitals and 57 percent of all surveyed hospitals use automated patient flow systems.
• Ninety percent of Most Wired hospitals and 73 percent of all surveyed use performance improvement scorecards to help reduce inefficiencies.
• One hundred percent of Most Wired hospitals check drug interactions and drug allergies when medications are ordered as a major step in reducing medication errors.

"As shown by these survey results, hospitals continue to demonstrate how IT not only can be used to improve patient care and safety but it is also a means to improve efficiency," says Rich Umbdenstock, president and CEO of the AHA. "Hospitals receiving Most Wired recognition are truly representative of our nation's hospitals and systems – rural and urban, small and large, teaching and non-teaching, and critical access hospitals geographically dispersed."

“Equipping caregivers with the information needed to drive quality, safety and efficiency will continue to be an imperative as the challenges facing health systems grow increasingly complex,” says Pat Blake, president, McKesson Technology Solutions. “The effective use of health IT, including actionable analytics and connectivity, can be a strategic lever as hospitals and health systems work to drive better outcomes while managing capacity, reducing costs, and coordinating care across multiple settings and caregivers.”

Health Care’s Most Wired Survey, conducted between January 15 and March 15, asked hospitals and health systems nationwide to answer questions regarding their IT initiatives. Respondents completed 662 surveys, representing 1,570 hospitals, or roughly 27 percent of all U.S. hospitals.

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