



For Immediate Release
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LINCOLN HOSPITAL: ONE OF THE SAFEST IN NEW YORK CITY

The latest report on hospital acquired infection rates released by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) lists Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center as one of three hospitals in New York City with a significantly lower rate of Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) infections than the state average. This most recent stellar rating is one of many achievements garnered by the South Bronx hospital in the area of patient safety.

“We have improved the safety and quality of patient care through the implementation of effective collaborations, promoting an open culture of education, prevention and accountability,” said José R. Sanchez, Lincoln Hospital Executive Director and Senior Vice President of Generations+/Northern Manhattan Health Network. He added, “Our goal is zero errors and sustainable results. I am proud to say that our staff, under the direction of a dedicated and competent Patient Safety Officer, is working diligently towards achieving this objective, contributing to the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation’s goal to be one of the safest hospital systems in the country by the year 2010.”

Abdul Mondul, M.D., Patient Safety Officer and Associate Program Director of the Medicine Resident Training program said, “We were early adopters of a set of best practices that focus on preventing infections related to the use of central lines (IV catheters that are placed on the neck that go deeper than a regular IV), preventing Pneumonias that are associated with the use of life support machines in the intensive care units as well as the early diagnosis and treatment of severe sepsis infections.

Under the direction of Dr. Mondul and the hospital’s Patient Safety Committee, multiple staff education campaigns have been carried out, focusing on strategies to prevent

infections such as hand washing and the prevention of adverse outcomes through the use of tools such as checklists to assure compliance with best practices prior to starting invasive procedures.

“Our patients are the core members of our team; and as such, we have also developed educational tools for them focusing on practices to prevent infections and empowering them to speak up and ask questions if they have any doubts,” said Dr. Mondul.

Approximately 1.7 million healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) occur in US hospitals each year – killing nearly 99,000 and adding more than \$28 billion to health care costs annually. One of the most common types is the central-line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) which can occur when germs move down a central line or central catheter inserted near the patient’s heart, veins or arteries. According to the NYSDOH report, Lincoln Hospital’s central-line associated bloodstream infection rates in the medical intensive care unit is 0 per 1,675 cases. In addition, Lincoln’s CLABSI rate in the coronary intensive care unit is 0 per 775 cases.

New York State Law mandates that New York’s 186 hospitals collect data and report healthcare-associated infections to the New York State Department of Health. These results, included in the *Hospital-Acquired Infections, New York State 2008 Report*, provide the public with fair, accurate and reliable infection data while providing hospitals and providers a tool to identify risk factors for infections and recommendations for improvements.

Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, located at 234 E. 149th Street in the Bronx, is a 347-bed, acute care level 1 trauma center with the busiest emergency room in the region. The hospital emphasizes primary care medicine and utilizes the latest advances in medical science.

Lincoln Hospital is a member of the Generations+/Northern Manhattan Health Network, a healthcare conglomerate which is part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. Harlem Hospital Center in Central Harlem and three Diagnostic and Treatment Centers: Segundo Ruiz Belvis and Morrisania in the Bronx and Renaissance in Northern Harlem are also part of the Network.

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