

BSN Headline News for December 5, 2011

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Today's top story is Bon Secours Health System improves care while lowering costs.

Now that's the ticket. Stewardship comes in many forms. And for many patients, less is more.

We are talking about blood transfusions.

Did you know that over the past 3 years Bon Secours has saved over \$1.1 million by standardizing care of heart bypass and valve replacement surgeries?

According to Chief Medical Officer Dr. Marlon Priest, heart surgeons helped create new blood transfusion guidelines across the system that reduced transfusions in heart surgery patients from 66% to 42% and the average amount of blood transfused dropped by nearly two-thirds.

In addition, according to Dr. Priest, "The complication rate went down and the length of time people spent in the hospital went down."

Much of the drive to improve comes from data collected by Premier. When Bon Secours used Premier's database to look for areas of improvement, it found several, including blood transfusions during heart surgery. So Bon Secours heart surgeons took action. And the results are clear.

Fewer transfusions on the right patients leads to lower complication rates and shorter lengths of stay which translates to savings representing what we like to call stewardship.


Stewardship and innovation. Two values that will help Bon Secours survive during tough economic times.

In other news, innovation has found another home in DePaul Medical Center.

Very recently DePaul Medical Center expanded its minimally invasive surgery program to include the da Vinci Surgical System.

The new robotic surgical system provides surgeons access to the latest

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advancements in minimally invasive surgery.

Surgeries performed with the da Vinci Surgical System have provide potential for significantly less pain, a shorter hospital stay, faster return to normal daily activities, as well as the potential for better clinical outcomes.

And now Bon Secours DePaul Medical Center joins other Bon Secours facilities with the latest robotic surgical system for minimally invasive surgery.

Please join us in congratulating Bon Secours DePaul Medical Center as they work for innovation in the Hampton Roads area.

Finally, 2 other facilities in the Bon Secours Virginia Health system are in the news.

Memorial Regional Medical Center in Mechanicsville, Virginia, and Mary Immaculate Hospital in Newport News, Virginia, were ranked among the top five hospitals in Virginia by Virginia Health Information.

Every year Virginia Health Information reports on efficiency ranking, providers' costs, profits and charity in their Industry Report entitled Virginia Hospital & Nursing Facilities

In their 2011 report Memorial Regional Medical Center placed first in the ranking and Mary Immaculate Hospital placed fourth.

For the 18th year, Virginia Health Information assessed and ranked hospitals and nursing facilities based on five performance categories: charges, costs, productivity and utilization, financial viability and community support.

Due to significant differences in regional cost structure, Virginia Health Information has "leveled the playing field" by applying Medicare's Wage-Price Index to accurately compare acute hospitals.

The Industry Report is targeted to the needs of employers and purchasers of health care. The data have been used for more than a decade to help build networks and negotiate provider contracts.

Please join us in congratulating Memorial Regional Medical Center and Mary Immaculate Hospital for this impressive showing.

Well, that's it for this week. Stay tuned to this portal for future up to the minute information on these and other stories on BSN Headline News. I'm Dave Schlachter. Thanks for joining us.

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