



Health Care Improvement Foundation Excellence in Health Care Awards

· Celebrating Achievements in Patient Safety, Equity, and Quality ·

20 Year Report

Health Care Improvement Foundation

The Health Care Improvement Foundation (HCIF), was founded to support a responsive, coordinated health care delivery system that fulfills the needs of patients and consumers, and achieves better health. Through large-scale collaboration, HCIF works with health systems, community based organizations, payors and a variety of other stakeholders to find solutions to complex healthcare challenges, which any one stakeholder could not achieve alone. Since its inception, HCIF has worked with numerous organizations to improve quality of care, health equity, patient safety, and population health issues such as, COVID-19, perinatal care, readmissions, cancer, workplace violence, food security, trauma informed care, and health literacy.

With a vision of healthier communities through equitable, accessible, and quality health care, and a mission to drive superior health care through collaboration and shared learning, HCIF's strategic priorities include health equity; patient, family, and community engagement; and bridging population health and clinical improvement.

Partnership for Patient Care

The Partnership for Patient Care (PPC) is a collaboration between Independence Blue Cross and the Philadelphia region's hospitals. This unique collaboration between payors and providers to jointly fund quality and patient safety improvement initiatives was established with the vision to be the safest region in the country. Since its creation in 2006, PPC projects have strived to accelerate the adoption of evidence-based clinical practices by pooling the resources, knowledge, and efforts of health care providers and partners. Topics are selected by HCIF's Clinical Advisory Committee, a voluntary expert panel of healthcare providers and partners from organizations across Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Over the last decade-plus, PPC has funded over 26 multi-year collaboratives addressing a variety of quality and safety priorities with the region's hospitals. These PPC collaboratives aimed at improving the quality and safety of care delivered to patients in our region have included the contributions from over 2,000 participants.

Excellence in Health Care Awards

For the past twenty years, HCIF has hosted the Excellence in Health Care Awards. This program is one of many ways in which HCIF promotes best practices in health care patient safety and quality throughout the region. The award recognizes hospitals and healthsystems for their innovative contributions in advancing patient care. The Clinical Advisory Committee has been instrumental in promoting the award program, for serving as expert judges, and suggesting ways to strengthen its impact and expand its dissemination



Submission & Judging

Participating health systems or hospitals submit their initiatives through an online platform, ensuring de-identification to prevent bias during judging. Graphs, statistics, and comprehensive descriptions accompany the submissions, aiding in effectively presenting the achievements or initiatives. The program has received more than 600 submissions throughout its history covering a wide range of categories, including patient safety, quality improvement, patient and family engagement, workplace environment, health equity, and more.

The program engages a diverse panel of expert judges representing various health care professionals with expertise in patient safety and quality, health system leadership, public health, patient and family advocacy, medication safety, and other relevant fields. This judging panel has representation from all PPC hospitals and healthsystems, and additional non-affiliated organizations. The judging panel carefully reviews and scores the submissions through an online platform on categories such as level of improvement, innovation, health equity, patient & family engagement, collaboration across care settings, senior leadership support, replicability, and promotion of an organizational culture of safety.



Recognition & Impact

The program emphasizes the dissemination of successful initiatives to benefit the broader health care community. Professional videos are produced for the top 3 winners, which are then distributed on HCIF's YouTube page, providing widespread visibility to their accomplishments. Furthermore, summaries of the top 10 initiatives are shared on the program's website, enabling others to learn from and replicate these successful initiatives. The awards are revealed and celebrated at annual PPC programming, where winners have been invited to showcase poster presentations and participate in panel discussions. Top 3 winners are also invited to HAP's signature event, Southeast Connect, for recognition and networking opportunities.

Over its 20-year history, the award program has garnered strong interest and commitment of health care organizations to showcase their innovative initiatives and contribute to health care quality improvement. The program inspires innovation, exposes organizations to regional best practices, advances quality and patient safety, and fosters valuable exchanges among health care professionals. With its broad participation and recognition, the program continues to make a lasting impact in the southeastern PA region.

"The opportunity to exchange ideas with local colleagues is very valuable."



Program History

As the program celebrates 20 years of excellence, HCIF remains steadfast in its dedication to celebrating and disseminating the best innovative initiatives in the southeastern PA region. As the awards program continues to evolve, guided by the changing values and priorities of the health care landscape, the Excellence in Health Care Awards honors outstanding contributions to patient safety, health care quality, and innovation in the pursuit of better health outcomes.

2002: Medication Safety Award Begins

The Medication Safety Award began in 2002 with a singular focus on recognizing outstanding initiatives in medication safety. The program aimed to honor health care organizations' efforts in ensuring the safe administration and treatment of medications.

2009 - 2019

Significant advancements for the program over the years included:

- Expanded recognition methods, such as production of a professional video about the winning initiatives for increased dissemination.
- Utilization of WizeHive online platform to streamline the judging and submission processes, making them more efficient and user-friendly.
- Winners announced at the Annual PPC Leadership Summit and invited to share best practices with an audience of patient safety leaders.



2008: Delaware Valley Patient Safety & Quality Award

- Mission and scope broadened to include submissions related to patient safety, workforce shortages, patient and family engagement, and other critical areas within health care.
- Began recruiting patient safety and quality professionals from all participating health systems, expanding beyond previous pool of unaffiliated judges.



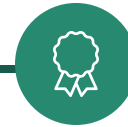
2020-2022: Inclusion of health equity & patient engagement

In alignment with the mission of HCIF and PPC, the award program expanded to incorporate health equity and patient engagement as judging criteria while maintaining a core focus on patient safety.



2023 Renamed to Excellence in Health Care Awards

The program was renamed to reflect the evolving criteria and submission topics, as well as the ongoing efforts to engage diverse judging perspectives with a wide range of specialized knowledge.





Thank You

HCIF thanks all who have participated in our award program over the years, including submitters, winners, and judges, as well as the Clinical Advisory Committee for their oversight and support over the years.