

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 28, 2017

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**Newport Hospitals & Health Services receives WSHA Rural Quality ~ Everyday  
Extraordinary Award**

*In recognition of outstanding improvement on the quality and safety of rural health care*

SEATTLE – Newport Hospitals & Health Services received the Washington State Hospital Association’s 2017 Rural Quality ~ Everyday Extraordinary Award for its success in their “Surgical Site Infection Prevention Project.”

“Washington’s rural hospitals have always been ready to be held to the same standards of their urban and suburban counterparts,” WSHA Senior Vice President for Patient Safety Jennifer Graves said. “They care deeply about providing top-quality care to their communities, and we are proud to recognize the many caregivers at Newport for their achievement in reducing surgical site infections.”

“We take surgical site, and all infections, very seriously,” Newport CEO Tom Wilbur said. “Our multidisciplinary team did incredible work in identifying areas for improvement to protect patients from contracting surgical site infections.” Although these types of infections have decreased significantly over the through process change and adoption of best practices, the goal is always to eliminate them completely.

“It was important to the judges that the award winners have measurable results,” said Linda Michel, WSHA Director of Rural Quality. “Newport’s submission and the outcome of the process improvement was extremely impressive, and demonstrates their commitment to safe, effective health care for the communities they serve.”

The award recognizes outstanding process improvements efforts by a rural health care facility. Any rural facility wishing to be considered for the award submitted answers to 10 essay questions. Submissions were blinded and evaluated by a panel of judges from WSHA, the Washington State Department of Health, Qualis and a rural quality leader. Scoring was a point system that included certain number of points for process improvement tools used for data collection, data analysis, identifying the root cause of the process failure, multidisciplinary teamwork, communication and the outcome of the project.

The Rural Quality ~ Everyday Extraordinary Award was presented to Newport at the WSHA & AWPHD 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Leadership Conference at Campbell's Resort in Chelan, Wash., on June 27, 2017.

### **About WSHA**

The Washington State Hospital Association works to improve the health of all Washington state residents by being active on key issues of policy and quality. WSHA represents more than 100 hospitals and health systems in the state, including those that are non-profit, investor-owned, and county, state and military hospitals. In 2005, WSHA launched the Patient Safety program to help hospitals improve patient safety by supporting the wide-spread adoption of evidence-based clinical practices. WSHA works to improve the health of the people of the state by becoming involved in all matters affecting the delivery, quality, accessibility, affordability and continuity of health care.

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