
Urgent Matters Names Winners of the 2014 Emergency Care Innovation of the Year Award

The winning team will present its innovation at the Innovations in Patient Safety Conference, in Chicago

WASHINGTON (Oct. 22, 2014) — Urgent Matters, Blue Jay Consulting, and Schumacher Group are pleased to announce the winners of the Emergency Care Innovation of the Year Award, a competition to foster innovation in emergency departments nationwide.

The Emergency Care Innovation of the Year Award provides an opportunity for multidisciplinary teams to be acknowledged for cutting-edge innovations in emergency care. The award, now in its second year, provides a platform for sharing effective solutions that address common issues facing the emergency care community.

Innovations, or tools, were reviewed by a committee comprised of representatives from Urgent Matters, Blue Jay Consulting, Schumacher Group, and the Urgent Matters Editorial Board. The top rated tools were assessed based on their novelty, exportability, effectiveness, clarity, and on their ability to be used by a multi-disciplinary health care team.

Congratulations to the following team for being chosen as the winner of the 2014 Emergency Care Innovation of the Year Award:

Acute Care Plans

Massachusetts General Hospital

The team at Massachusetts General Hospital developed Acute Care Plans to improve the coordination of care for high frequency emergency department (ED) patients. These plans are notes connected to their ED Information System, which give quick guidance to ED clinicians regarding the patient's treatment plan, disposition, and who to contact if the patient is in the ED. Since implementation, the number of visits and length of stay for high frequency ED patients selected to have an Acute Care Plan have decreased.

Dawn Williamson, RN, will represent the Massachusetts General Hospital team and present details of the winning innovation at the Urgent Matters Innovations in Patient Safety conference in Chicago, Oct. 26.

Congratulations to the following teams, who were recognized as Recipients of Distinguished Recognition:

Structured Electronic Follow-Up for Patients Discharged from the ED

Edward Hospital

In order to improve care transitions for patients discharged from the ED, a team from Edward Hospital developed and implemented a structured process for electronic patient follow-up. This cost-effective system enabled patients to get the attention they needed with minimal employee resource requirements.

Risk-Free ED Program

Inova Fairfax Medical Center / Inova Fairfax Children's Hospital

A team from Inova developed and implemented a mandatory program to improve patient care, reduce risk, and increase reliability in a large ED group practice model. Based on their program, the hospital was able to significantly reduce their loss reserves, professional liability cost, length of stay, time for consultation, and more.

All submitted tools that met initial criteria will be posted to the Urgent Matters online searchable toolkit, a collection of strategies and tools developed by hospitals across the country to target specific issues facing hospital emergency departments. The toolkit is available at <http://urgentmatters.org/toolkit>.

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About Urgent Matters

Urgent Matters is a national initiative dedicated to finding, developing and delivering strategies to improve patient flow and reduce emergency department crowding. Urgent Matters has a long standing reputation for producing unbiased content from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Through educational activities such as e-newsletters, web seminars, podcasts, online tools, and conferences, Urgent Matters disseminates best practices for emergency care. Urgent Matters is managed by the Office of Clinical Practice Innovation at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. www.urgentmatters.org

About Blue Jay Consulting

Blue Jay Consulting is comprised of nationally recognized emergency care experts who implement effective, lasting changes to optimize service and throughput in hospital emergency departments. Blue Jay creates outcome-oriented solutions and achieves quantifiable results through process improvement services and enhanced interim leadership. Blue Jay Consulting empowers hospitals to be the best they can be. For further information, please visit www.bluejayconsulting.com.

About Schumacher Group

Schumacher Group is one of the nation's largest and fastest-growing health care resources, partnering with more than 3,000 providers to help treat approximately 4 million patients annually. Our innovative, patient-centered solutions cover the entire continuum of care, including Emergency Medicine, Hospital Medicine, Care Management, WellnessWorks and Medical Billing.

Schumacher Group's goal is to improve treatment of the most important person in health care: the patient. For further information, please visit www.schumachergroup.com.