

M Northwestern Memorial[®] Hospital

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR QUALITY HEALTH CARE ANNOUNCES NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AS WINNER OF ANNUAL NCQHC HEALTH CARE QUALITY AWARD

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 10, 2005 - The National Committee for Quality Health Care (NCQHC) has awarded the prestigious 2005 National Quality Health Care Award to Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Established in 1994, **NCQHC's National Quality Health Care Award** is presented to a healthcare provider with demonstrated outstanding programs to improve quality, embraces innovation and forward thinking, and establishes ways to measure and evaluate those processes to benefit the community. The award is the oldest and one of the most prestigious health quality awards in the United States.

"The jury, chaired by NCQHC Board member Ken Samet, President & COO of Medstar Health, was impressed with Northwestern Memorial Hospital's strong commitment to guaranteeing that quality is central to healthcare delivery. NCQHC's National Quality Health Care Award honors Northwestern Memorial's executive leadership and staff for their exceptional efforts in the quality healthcare field ensure patient centered practices, it's innovative use of new and emerging technologies, and its continuous efforts to maintain financial stability." said Catherine E. McDermott, NCQHC's president and CEO.

"Quality is integral to everything we do at Northwestern Memorial, and being able to measure it at all levels is a powerful tool," said Dean M. Harrison, Northwestern Memorial Hospital President & CEO. Gary A. Mecklenberg, President & CEO of Northwestern Memorial HealthCare, Northwestern Memorial Hospital's parent company said, "We are honored to received this award. It provides validation that we are making significant strides toward our goal of providing the best and safest care for our patients," "This recognition is very special to

us as it comes from an organization comprised of providers and other healthcare industry leaders," said Mecklenberg

The National Committee for Quality Health Care is also pleased to announce that the Cardinal Health Foundation has become the first corporate sponsor of the organization's prestigious annual NCQHC National Quality Health Care Award. Supported by the global resources of Cardinal Health (www.cardinal.com [<file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/BKurtzig/Local%20Settings/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/OLKBC/www.cardinal.com>](file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/BKurtzig/Local%20Settings/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/OLKBC/www.cardinal.com)), the **Cardinal Health Foundation** is the focal point of the company's community relations efforts. The Foundation's mission is to advance and fund regional and national programs that improve access to and delivery of quality health care services.

Modern Healthcare Magazine has supported the efforts of NCQHC and the NCQHC National Quality Health Care Award for the past 11 years, and continues to endorse the award as a Legacy Partner. Through its partnership with NCQHC, Modern Healthcare (www.modernhealthcare.com [<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/>](http://www.modernhealthcare.com/)), with its broad and diverse magazine and website readership, has ensured growing interest in the award.

The **National Committee for Quality Health Care** (www.ncqhc.org [<http://www.ncqhc.org/>](http://www.ncqhc.org/)) is a national 501(c)(3) independent educational membership organization founded in 1978. It is comprised of senior leaders from all sectors of the healthcare industry who share a common interest in quality as the foundation of healthcare delivery. With the leadership of its members, NCQHC educates and informs government policy makers, the media, patient and consumer groups, and healthcare professionals through its conferences, publications, research and surveys.

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