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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CRITICAL-CARE NURSES RECOGNIZES THE QUEEN’S MEDICAL CENTER’S SURGICAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT WITH THE SILVER BEACON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

National three-year award marks a significant milestone on the path to exceptional patient care and achieving a healthy work environment

HONOLULU – The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) recently conferred a Silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence on Queen Emma Tower 4C-Surgical Intensive Care Unit (QET 4C-SICU) at The Queen’s Medical Center.

The Beacon Award for Excellence — a significant milestone on the path to exceptional patient care and healthy work environments — recognizes unit caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with AACN’s six Healthy Work Environment Standards. Units that achieve this three-year, three-level award with a gold, silver or bronze designation meet national criteria consistent with Magnet Recognition, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and the National Quality Healthcare Award.

“It’s an honor to receive the first Beacon Award for Excellence in the State of Hawaii. More importantly, we are proud of all of our bedside nurses who carry out the mission and vision of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV by putting patients first in all we do,” said Jill Slade RN, MS, nurse manager of QET 4C-SICU. “Our nurses in the SICU show tremendous empathy, dedication to their profession and commitment to teamwork to care for our patients. We would like to acknowledge our SICU Intensivists who support our nurse-driven performance improvement projects that improve the patient outcomes in the SICU. We are privileged to work amongst all team members (including physicians, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, physical therapists, and all other disciplines) and executive nursing leadership who share this same goal of excellence for our patients and their families,” Slade said.

“The Beacon Award for Excellence recognizes caregivers in stellar units whose consistent and systematic approach to evidence-based care optimizes patient outcomes. Units that receive this national recognition serve as role models to others on their journey
to excellent patient and family care,” said AACN President Teri Lynn Kiss, RN, MS, MSSW, CNML, CMSRN.

The Silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence signifies continuous learning and effective systems to achieve optimal patient care. The QET 4C-SICU earned its silver award by meeting the following evidence-based Beacon Award for Excellence criteria:

- Leadership Structures and Systems
- Appropriate Staffing and Staff Engagement
- Effective Communication, Knowledge Management, Learning and Development
- Evidence-Based Practice and Processes
- Outcome Measurement

Other Beacon Award designations include bronze and gold. Recipients who earned a bronze-level award show success in developing, deploying and integrating unit-based performance criteria for optimal outcomes; gold-level awardees demonstrate excellent and sustained unit performance and patient outcomes.

About The Queen’s Medical Center

The Queen’s Medical Center is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation, acute care medical facility accredited by The Joint Commission. The facility houses 505 acute beds and 28 sub-acute beds and is widely known for its programs in cancer, cardiovascular disease, neuroscience, orthopaedics, surgery, emergency medicine and trauma, and behavioral medicine. Queen’s is home to a number of residency programs offered in conjunction with the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii. Queen’s has achieved Magnet® status – the highest institutional honor for hospital excellence – from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Magnet recognition is held by less than six percent of hospitals in the United States. Queen’s is the first hospital in Hawai‘i to achieve Magnet status.

About the Beacon Award for Excellence

Established in 2003, the Beacon Award for Excellence offers a road map to help guide exceptional care through improved outcomes and greater overall patient satisfaction. U.S. or Canadian units where patients receive their principal nursing care after hospital admission qualify for this excellence award. Units that receive the Beacon Award for Excellence meet criteria in six categories: leadership structures and systems; appropriate staffing and staff engagement; effective communication, knowledge management, learning and development; evidence-based practice and processes; and outcome measurement. To learn more, visit www.aacn.org/beacon or call (800) 899-2226.

About the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses

Founded in 1969 and based in Aliso Viejo, Calif., the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) is the largest specialty nursing organization in the world. AACN joins together the interests of more than 500,000 acute and critical care nurses and claims more than 235 chapters worldwide. The organization’s vision is to create a healthcare system driven by the needs of patients and their families in which acute and critical care nurses make their optimal contribution. To learn more about AACN, visit www.aacn.org, connect with the organization on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aacnface or follow AACN on Twitter at www.twitter.com/aacnme.