



Nurse's Day and Hospital Week... Many Reasons to Celebrate

By John DiAngelo, Inspira Health Network President and CEO

There are approximately 12.5 million health care workers in the United States. At Inspira Health Network, we are fortunate to have 5,400 on our team. And whether they provide life-saving emergency treatment in one of our emergency departments or rarely have contact with our patients, each member of the Inspira team supports our mission of improving the lives of all we serve.

Along with health systems and hospitals across the country, we celebrated Nurse's Day and Hospital Week in early May. These annual recognition days help us sharpen our focus on the skills, compassion and dedication health care workers bring to their jobs every day. I have worked in the health care field for more than 30 years, and continue to be impressed and inspired by the stories of employees and physicians who will stop at nothing to ensure that our patients are kept safe, given excellent care and are wowed by their health care experience.

I would like to share an example of how this effort and commitment can lead to extraordinary results. As an organization,

we have set out to become a leader in patient safety. This requires a sustained and coordinated effort at every level of the organization. Front-line staff, support teams, leadership and trustees must all be aligned and committed to achieving this goal. I'm pleased to share that we are making excellent progress and have been nationally recognized for our efforts. On the two most recent Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade reports, our Elmer, Vineland and Woodbury medical centers all earned A's for patient safety.

Earning an A on the Leapfrog report isn't easy. Less than a third of hospitals nationwide earned an A on the Spring 2017 Hospital Safety Grade. The criteria used by Leapfrog was developed by a national panel of patient safety experts. For the most recent data cycle, Leapfrog raised the bar even higher for its Safety Grade. This makes being nationally recognized for patient safety an even greater source of pride for our employees and physicians. It is also our hope that the culture of safety we have fostered at Inspira, combined with our national recognition for patient safety,

can bring a level of comfort and confidence to everyone who comes to any Inspira location for care.

You might find it interesting that as our network continues to grow, we have an increasing number of employees who work in a non-hospital setting. Yet our urgent care centers, Inspira Medical Group offices, free-standing imaging locations, outpatient behavioral wellness centers, Population Health Department and other clinical and non-clinical services all support one another to ensure that we fulfill our three-fold promise of patient safety, clinical excellence and a "Wow!" experience.

Nurse's Day and Hospital Week are now behind us, but the dedication and commitment of Inspira Health Network's 5,400 employees remain strong, and focused on the health of our communities. That's worth celebrating all year long.



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