2024 Patty Brown Award

The Patty Brown Innovation Award acknowledges individuals or teams making significant strides in Maryland's healthcare landscape. Winners showcase innovation in their engagement and collaboration with various stakeholders throughout the healthcare spectrum. They exhibit strategic thinking, guiding others in implementing practical solutions using health information technology. Most importantly, their endeavors are rooted in a mission to enhance health outcomes for patients and communities.

This year's award goes to: Quality Insights

Quality Insights Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing healthcare quality and fostering healthier communities through data-driven solutions. They collaborate with various stakeholders, including government agencies, payers, healthcare facilities, patients, and community organizations, to promote better care, efficient spending, and improved health outcomes.One of Quality Insight's recent collaborations with the Maryland Department of Health and the state's Infection Prevention and Control Specialist focused on improving infection control practices in dialysis patients residing in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). This population faces heightened health risks due to kidney disease and comorbidities. Through data analysis and collaborative efforts, they targeted six SNFs, conducting Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) evaluations to identify tailored solutions for enhancing infection control and patient safety.

Quality Insight's strategies included monthly catheter care audits and proactive infection risk monitoring using the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Dialysis Event Surveillance Form. Regular meetings with SNF Dialysis Providers, State Surveyors, and Infection Control Specialists ensured ongoing progress and addressed potential infection-related concerns. These efforts led to policy changes aligned with evidence-based practices and CDC recommendations, illustrating how external partnerships contribute to safer and healthier care for vulnerable populations.Quality Insight's success is quantified through data measurement. From May 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023, their Network experienced 16 catheter infections in Maryland, with a rate of 1.2 infections per 100 patient months. In the subsequent period, from May 1, 2023, to February 29, 2024, they recorded only nine catheter infections, representing a 47% improvement. Currently, Quality Insights outperform the national average by 35%. Qualitatively, our success is evident in observing safer patient-care practices and enhanced infection control measures during follow-up ICAR evaluations.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Quality Insights for their outstanding contributions to the community. We also express our gratitude to all who submitted nominations this year. It's truly inspiring to witness the impactful and innovative efforts of CRISP participants in advancing healthcare!