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[Insert Hospital Name] Wins Zero Harm Award[s] in Recognition of Their Dedication to Eliminating Medical Errors

(XX, South Carolina – November 1, 2018)

The South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) awarded _____ for their efforts at eliminating harm in their 2018 Zero Harm Awards.

[Hospital Name] won awards for [list awards], a testament to the dedication of their clinical staff and the facility's commitment to the highest quality of care.

SCHA launched their Zero Harm Awards in 2013 after years of supporting South Carolina hospitals which were already on the forefront of preventing medical errors, which by some estimates is the third leading cause of death in the United States, with an economic impact that could reach 1 trillion dollars annually. Thanks to a collaboration with The Duke Endowment and The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Health, South Carolina hospitals were united in a statewide effort to create a culture of high reliability and reduce harm in our facilities by implementing robust, evidence-based practices that are making a positive impact on patients and the safety and quality of care.

Over the last five years, SCHA's Zero Harm Awards has provided concrete proof of our hospitals' success. By celebrating hospitals who have had extended harm-free stretches in major surgical areas like knee replacements, hip replacements, colon surgery, and abdominal hysterectomy or gone months without a Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI), the Zero Harm Awards showcase the high quality of care patients in South Carolina receive. All of the hospital data used for these awards is also independently verified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

In 2018, SCHA introduced two new eligible harm areas for awards, Clostridium Difficile (C.Diff) and Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), two other common areas of infection which our hospitals have been systematically eliminating inside their walls.

According to Thornton Kirby, President and CEO of SCHA, the awards are all part of the Association's efforts to guide and support the state's hospitals in creating a culture of "Zero Harm" by recognizing the efforts of the amazing clinicians who work everyday to provide high quality care in South Carolina's hospitals and health systems.

"Zero Harm is about taking the principles of high reliability and applying them to how we deliver healthcare in South Carolina," said Kirby. "While one medical error is one too many, highly reliable organizations celebrate milestones to establish a new standard -- and that's exactly what we're trying to do with Zero Harm."

For more information about [Hospital Name]'s quality efforts, go to [insert webpage name/description].

For a full list of 2018 Zero Harm winners and to learn more about the program, please visit the SCHA Certified Zero Harm webpage.

