

# Zero Harm Talking Points

- The South Carolina Certified Zero Harm Awards program was launched in 2013 by the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA) to publicly recognize the progress South Carolina hospitals and health systems have made in eliminating areas of harm.
- The program started as the SC Safe Care Commitment, a collaboration with The Duke Endowment and The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Health to foster a culture of high reliability in the state's hospitals and health systems.
- Facilities are recognized for having extended harm-free stretches in major surgical areas like knee replacements, hip replacements, colon surgery, and abdominal hysterectomy. Facilities are also recognized for preventing Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI).
- In 2018, SCHA has 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.
- All of the hospital data used for these awards is also independently verified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.
- SCHA is excited to announce that 46 hospitals won a total of 172 Zero Harm Awards in 2018, setting a new standard for quality of care in our state.
- 18 facilities have achieved 58 months of zero harm for the 2018 awards period.
- 549 Zero Harm Awards have been granted to South Carolina hospitals since the program was launched in 2013.
- South Carolina's hospitals are proud to be a model for improving quality and patient safety as health systems across the county work to improve care delivery.