

News Release

For Immediate Release

To: Business News
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St. Mary's Innovis Health Earns Patient Safety Award

Detroit Lakes, Minn., April 2009 — St. Mary's Innovis Health has earned a Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) Patient Safety Excellence Award for its work in preventing retained objects such as sponges during labor and delivery.

Patient safety is a top priority for St. Mary's Innovis Health and other Minnesota hospitals. That's why St. Mary's Innovis Health joined the SAFE COUNT initiative, where Minnesota teams are working collectively to implement an extensive list of recommended actions to prevent sponges or other objects from being retained in a patient after giving birth. The recommended actions are compiled in the *SAFE COUNT Roadmap to Preventing Retained Objects in Vaginal Deliveries*. The MHA Patient Safety Excellence Award is given to facilities that have achieved more than 90 percent of the recommended actions.

“Hospitals that receive these awards are to be commended — the bar is set very high,” said MHA Patient Safety Vice President Tania Daniels. “Hospitals that qualify have achieved measurable and meaningful progress toward implementing best practices to drive down adverse health events.”

Dr. Abigail Ring, Chief Medical Officer of St. Mary's Innovis Health comments, “Our staff is to be commended for their hard work in achieving this award. We are committed to patient safety and we are happy to be a part of this initiative.

For more information about the SAFE COUNT campaign, visit the Minnesota Hospital Association Web site at www.mnhospitals.org/index/patient1.