Aleda E. Lutz VA Receives Gold for Patient Safety Practice

A formal recognition program was initiated by the National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS) in 2008 to help enhance the Root Cause Analysis (RCA) process and recognize the work of the Patient Safety Program at the facility level. The core concepts which shaped the program include the following:

- The criteria must support the current patient safety program, without instituting new requirements;
- criteria must be consistent with the objectives of the RCA process; and
- it should build upon current program data and not require additional data collection.

With these core concepts in mind, the Annual RCA Cornerstone Recognition Program was formed.

The idea was each facility should be measured against the same standard criteria and facilities would receive recognition according to applied levels of achievement. After consultation with the Patient Safety Officers and leadership in the field, NCPS launched the program in fiscal year 2008. Staff-reported adverse events and close calls represent the foundation of a robust and effective patient safety program.

The Fiscal Year 2017 Cornerstone Recognition Program draws strong attention to this premise, in addition to RCAs and aggregated reviews. New in Fiscal Year 2017, Cornerstone implemented broadly-applicable, long-standing alerts which continue to support the patient safety environment.

There are three levels to the Cornerstone Recognition Program: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The Aleda E. Lutz VA received Gold, the first time since Fiscal Year 2014.

“Our goal at the VA and Community Based Outpatient Clinics is to provide high quality, safe, patient-centered care. With the criteria set forth by the Cornerstone Patient Safety Program, VA staff can build upon their professional skills and experience to pinpoint ways to improve care and prevent any recurrence should a patient safety issue or risk be identified,” stated Dr. Ginny Creasman, Medical Center Director.

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center, with an additional 8-bed acute medicine and telemetry wing. It provides care to over 36,300 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at www.saginaw.va.gov.