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**AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER AND CERNER® CORPORATION ANNOUNCE THE 2012 PATHWAY AWARD™ WINNER: TEXAS HEALTH HARRIS METHODIST HOSPITAL CLEBURNE**

SILVER SPRING, Md. — May 3, 2012 — The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and Cerner® Corporation announced that the winner of the inaugural 2012 Pathway Award™ is Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Cleburne (THC) of Cleburne, Texas. This award is sponsored by Cerner Corporation, a global supplier of healthcare solutions, and recognizes a Pathway to Excellence®-designated organization that submitted a project proposal which demonstrated innovation and technology to create a positive nurse practice environment. Cerner encourages cutting-edge nursing programs and practices by sponsoring the \$10,000 purse attached to the Pathway Award. The award was presented at the Pathway to Excellence Conference held at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View in Washington, DC, on May 3–4, 2012.

The winning entry from THC highlighted its project “Community Case Management: A Transitional Care Model Using Advanced Practice Nurses to Reduce Hospital Readmissions and Preventable Emergency Department Visits.” This project will improve the practice environment at THC, which is located in a rural community in Johnson County, Texas, a designated health-professions-shortage area by the federal government.

This project will incorporate Android tablets, the Internet, monitoring by an advanced-practice community case management nurse (CCMN), and targeted in-home assessments by first responders to reduce/eliminate preventable admissions to the hospital. THC, a 137-bed acute care hospital, has a high percentage of uninsured/underinsured patients who cannot pay their bills. The emergency department (ED) is the major provider of indigent care for these individuals.

The goal of this remote-patient-monitoring program is to improve quality of life for patients with chronic diseases regardless of their ability to pay, to decrease preventable admissions to the ED by using CCMN follow-up, and target nonemergent assessment visits by first responders. By using frontline staff to identify patients to be followed by the CCMN, they will proactively advocate for their patients, decrease their workload, and increase staff morale.

“We hope to further the mission of our hospital, which is to improve the health of the communities we serve while also decreasing readmissions and improving outcomes for our patients in Johnson and Tarrant Counties,” said Mary Robinson, PhD, RN, vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer of THC and Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Southwest Fort Worth. “It is exciting to be chosen as the first hospital to receive this award. We were surprised, thrilled and honored.”

Through funding from the Pathway Award, THC will purchase four interactive remote monitoring devices developed by bioengineers at the University of Texas at Dallas. In addition to the physiological

measurement, the system has interactivity so that the patient and healthcare provider can talk to each other and the healthcare provider can conduct a virtual assessment.

“It is rewarding to present Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Cleburne with the resources needed to obtain technology that will provide patients increased quality care, help achieve practice excellence, and head start an innovative initiative that could potentially support rural communities everywhere,” says ANCC Executive Director Karen Drenkard, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN.

Roy Simpson, RN,C, DPNAP, FAAN, vice president of nursing at Cerner, says, “As a leader in the HIT market space, Cerner is proud that its partnership with ANCC continues to strengthen as we award the Pathway to Excellence Prize. It is through this cash award that Cerner Corporation continues to seed and plant innovation in patient care through recognition of excellence.”

If findings from this study show that the virtual monitoring process and targeted EMS assessments improve chronically ill patients’ quality of life and decrease preventable readmissions, the process could be replicated in all rural areas.

### **About the Pathway to Excellence<sup>®</sup> Program**

The Pathway to Excellence<sup>®</sup> Program recognizes a healthcare organization’s commitment to creating a positive nursing practice environment. The Pathway to Excellence in Long Term Care<sup>™</sup> program is the first to recognize this type of supportive work setting specifically in long-term care facilities.

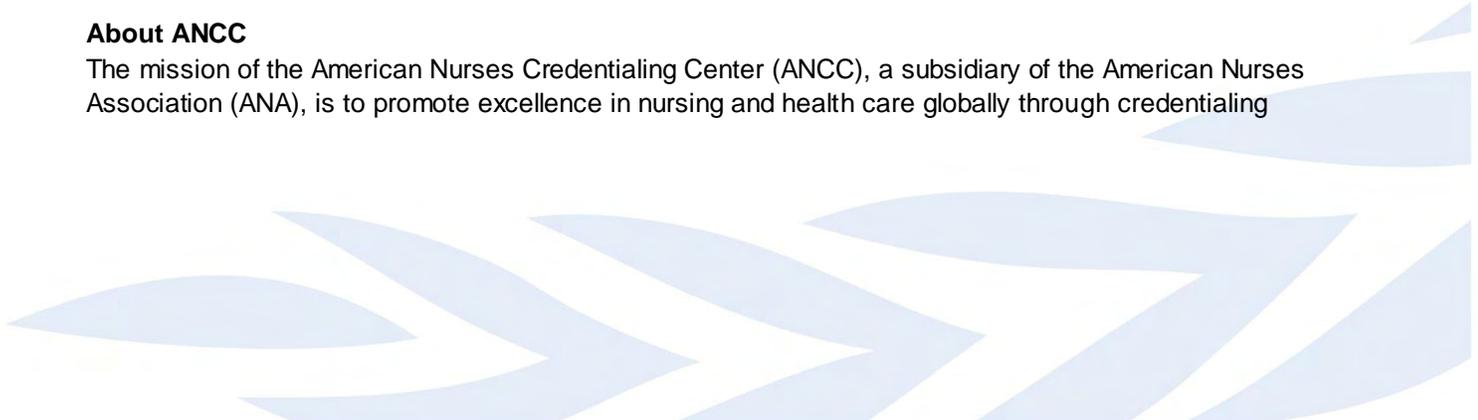
Pathway organizations focus on collaboration, career development, and accountable leadership to empower nurses.

### **About Cerner<sup>®</sup>**

Cerner<sup>®</sup> is transforming healthcare by eliminating error, variance, and waste for healthcare providers and consumers around the world. Cerner solutions optimize processes for healthcare organizations ranging in size from single-doctor practices to health systems to entire countries, the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, the employer health and wellness services industry, and the healthcare commerce system. These solutions are licensed by more than 8,500 facilities around the world, including approximately 2,300 hospitals; 3,400 physician practices covering more than 30,000 physicians; 600 ambulatory facilities, such as laboratories, ambulatory centers, cardiac facilities, radiology clinics, and surgery centers; 700 home-health facilities; and 1,500 retail pharmacies. For more information about Cerner, please visit [www.cerner.com](http://www.cerner.com), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

### **About ANCC**

The mission of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), is to promote excellence in nursing and health care globally through credentialing



programs. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify and recognize individual nurses in specialty practice areas. ANCC recognizes healthcare organizations that promote nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes, while providing safe, positive work environments. In addition, ANCC accredits healthcare organizations that provide and approve continuing nursing education. It also offers educational materials to support nurses and organizations as they work toward their credentials.

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