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**NEWS RELEASE
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**AAAHC Announces Winners of the Bernard A. Kershner
Innovations in Quality Improvement Award**

*Winning QI Studies Addressed Post-Operative Pain Management of Laparoscopic Patients,
Caries Risk Assessment Improvement*

(Skokie, Ill.) April 16, 2019 – AAAHC recently announced the 2018-19 winners of The Bernard A. Kershner Awards, honoring CSA Surgical Center, LLC in Missouri and ForwardDental in Wisconsin for their exemplary work in quality improvement studies. The prestigious Bernard A. Kershner Innovations in Quality Improvement Award recognizes AAAHC-accredited organizations that have successfully implemented meaningful QI studies, resulting in changes to their operations and demonstrating their commitment to *1095 Strong – quality every day*.

Representatives from the winning organizations received the award – named for the late Bernard A. Kershner who was a leader in ambulatory health care and a distinguished past Chair of the AAAHC Institute Board of Trustees – at the 2019 *Achieving Accreditation* program on March 15–16 in Tampa, Florida.

AAAHC-accredited surgical/procedural and primary care organizations submitted detailed, visual representations of their quality improvement studies. The submissions were reviewed by an expert panel which identified the finalists in each category.

“The Kershner Award recognizes the most distinguished quality improvement studies each year, demonstrating that it is both important and possible to continuously improve patient experience and clinical care,” said Naomi Kuznets, Ph.D., vice president and senior director for the AAAHC Institute. “We are excited to exhibit innovative strategies used in both primary care settings and surgical centers that enhance the quality of care patients receive.”

2018–19 Bernard A. Kershner Surgical/Procedural Care Winner

“Post-Operative Pain Reduction Quality Improvement Study”

CSA Surgical Center, LLC
Columbia, Mo.

The facility’s study focused on an intervention to improve the immediate post-operative pain management of laparoscopic cholecystectomy patients. By administering cost-effective PO acetaminophen to patients pre-operatively, the team saw improvements in post-operative pain management and reductions in length of stay in the recovery room. Based on study results, the facility’s medical staff elected to adopt the PO acetaminophen protocol for a myriad of procedures.

2018–19 Bernard A. Kershner Primary Care Winner

“Caries Risk Assessment Quality Improvement Study”

American Dental Partners/ForwardDental

Milwaukee, Wis.

Due to the increased caries risk assessment for children ages 0-17, ForwardDental convened a diverse, cross-functional team to develop, implement, and integrate a caries risk assessment registry. Based on the data collected and shared, risk assessments increased over 30% in the two initial practice locations. At the end of the study, 4,353 children had been entered into the registry.

People’s Choice Winners

In addition to the expert panel winners, attendees at the *Achieving Accreditation* program reviewed all finalists’ posters and voted for their top submissions. The Knoxville Ophthalmology ASC won the People’s Choice award in the surgical/procedural category for their study, “Single Dose Anesthesia Medications: Correct Administration and Narcotic Documentation.” The People’s Choice for primary care went to Lac Courte Oreilles Community Health Center for their study, “Retinopathy Exams for Diabetic Patients.”

To review all finalists’ posters, please visit <https://www.aaahc.org/quality/2018-2019-innovations-winners-finalists/>.

About AAAHC

AAAHC (Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care), founded in 1979, is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation with more than 6,100 organizations accredited. We accredit a wide range of outpatient settings including ambulatory surgery centers, office-based surgery facilities, endoscopy centers, student health centers, medical and dental group practices, community health centers, employer-based health clinics, retail clinics, and Indian/Tribal health centers, among others.

AAAHC advocates for the provision of high-quality health care through the development and adoption of nationally-recognized Standards. We provide a valuable survey experience founded on a peer-based, educational approach to on-site review. The AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation demonstrates an organization’s commitment to provide safe, high quality services to its patients. It is recognized by third party payers, medical professional associations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies, and the public. For more information on AAAHC please visit www.aaahc.org.

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