



Contact: Travis Clark
Chief Executive Officer
(540) 743-4561

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Luray, VA – Page Memorial Hospital announces that it is one of 18 hospital members of the Premier healthcare alliance to win one of the purchasing network’s first-ever Supply Chain Excellence Awards recognizing superior supply expense performance.

Page Memorial Hospital won in the critical access category and was presented the award at Premier’s Annual Breakthroughs Conference and Exhibition, June 19 – 22, 2007, in Orlando, FL.

“Achieving and sustaining strong supply chain performance is essential to a healthy bottom line to ensure that the health needs of our communities are met. Therefore, safely reducing supply expense is the definitive focus of Premier and our members,” said Mike Alkire, president of Premier Purchasing Partners. “We are pleased to recognize the significant accomplishments of Page Memorial Hospital. Its efforts lead the way for our more than 1,500 member hospitals.”

“I am very proud of our team,” said Travis Clark, chief executive officer at Page Memorial Hospital. “Recognition as a Premier Best Performer is not easy to achieve and this award is something we can all be very proud of.”

“It’s a delicate balance,” noted Clark. “Our number one priority is to provide our patients with the best care possible, and we are singularly committed to that goal. Our challenge everyday is to be clinically progressive while remaining financially viable, which is critical in today’s competitive healthcare environment.”

The winners’ supply expense performance is measured by Premier’s SupplyFocus™, the industry’s largest comparative database of operational and supply chain cost information for acute care hospitals. Winners were identified using four industry standard supply expense

ratios and a case-mix-index-(CMI)-based peer grouping methodology to ensure that organizations of diverse sizes and complexity were considered equally.

Supply expense ratios include supply expense as a percent of total operating expense, supply expense as a percent of net patient revenue, supply expense per adjusted patient day, and supply expense per adjusted discharge.

“Each of these metrics has strengths and weaknesses if examined alone; however, in aggregate, organizations that perform well in these metrics are excellent, all-around supply chain performers,” Alkire said.

To be eligible, each organization had to submit four quarters of calendar 2006 data to SupplyFocus by April 30, 2007. With 40 indicators measuring and trending performance in cost and operations, SupplyFocus™ enables hospitals to compare supply expense performance to that of similar facilities and easily identify improvement opportunities.

Page Memorial Hospital is a private, non-profit healthcare organization located in Luray, Virginia. The hospital is a licensed 25 bed critical access hospital accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

About Premier, 2006 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient

Serving 1,700 hospitals and more than 46,500 other healthcare sites, Premier is the largest healthcare alliance in the United States dedicated to improving patient outcomes while safely reducing the cost of care. Owned by not-for-profit hospitals, Premier operates the nation's largest healthcare purchasing network, the most comprehensive repository of hospital clinical and financial information and one of the largest policy-holder owned, hospital professional liability risk-retention groups in healthcare. Headquartered in San Diego, Premier has offices in Charlotte, N.C. and Washington. For more information, visit www.premierinc.com.

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