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Healthpartners wins national awards for environmental achievement

Hudson, Regions and Westfields Hospitals achieved high benchmarks in recycling, mercury reduction, pollution prevention and energy conservation

MINNEAPOLIS, April 26, 2013 – HealthPartners has achieved high sustainability honors nationally, receiving a total of four Environmental Excellence Awards from Practice Greenhealth. Hudson, Regions and Westfields Hospitals met high benchmarks in recycling, mercury reduction, pollution prevention and energy conservation.

Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading health care membership community that empowers its members to increase their efficiencies and environmental stewardship while improving patient safety and care. The awards HealthPartners won are as follows:

- **Partner for Change – Regions and Westfields**
 - Award winners in this category have management support and infrastructure (commitment statement, steering committee, facility team, community engagement) and meet high benchmarks for recycling, mercury elimination and pollution prevention and sustainability programs.
- **Partner for Change, with Distinction – Hudson**
 - This category is very competitive. In addition to the qualifications above, these award winners meet more aggressive goals for recycling, regulated medical waste, hazardous waste – and show progress in environmentally preferred purchasing, food services and other initiatives.
- **Making Medicine Mercury Free – Regions**
 - Award winners in this category have a mercury free commitment statement, an inventory of all mercury-containing items, and handling or clean-up procedures for mercury.

In addition to meeting high benchmarks, organizations honored with awards must show leadership in the local community and the health care sector.

“HealthPartners was selected as an Award winner because they met high environmental standards,” said Laura Wenger, RN, Executive Director, Practice Greenhealth. “HealthPartners is truly demonstrating leadership for the future of health care.”

“Our mission to improve the health of our members, patients and community is in direct alignment with our goals for sustainability,” said Dana Slade, Sustainability Manager, HealthPartners. “To be recognized nationally among other high-performing organizations is truly an honor, and an affirmation of the work our teams do every day.”

The Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Awards were presented in Boston, MA, April 25 at the CleanMed Conference & Exposition, the premier national environmental conference for leaders in health care sustainability.

About HealthPartners

Founded in 1957, HealthPartners is the largest consumer-governed, non-profit health care organization in the nation. It is dedicated to improving the health of its members, patients and the community. HealthPartners provides a full-range of health plan services including insurance, administration and health and well-being programs. It serves more than 1.4 million medical and dental health plan members nationwide, and is the top-ranked commercial plan in Minnesota. Its Medicare plan has the highest rating (five stars), which only 11 plans in the nation achieved in 2013. Since its combination with Park Nicollet in 2013, its care system includes more than 1,700 physicians; five hospitals; 50 primary care clinics; 21 urgent care locations; and numerous specialty practices in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. In addition, Stillwater Medical Group, part of the HealthPartners family of care, includes 80 physicians serving the St. Croix Valley region. HealthPartners Dental Group has more than 60 dentists and 21 dental clinics. HealthPartners also provides medical education and conducts research through its Institute of Education and Research.

About Practice Greenhealth

Practice Greenhealth is the nation’s leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the health care community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices. For more information on Practice Greenhealth, visit www.practicegreenhealth.org.