

September 21, 2009

## **Allen County Health Partners and The University of Findlay College of Pharmacy Receive Patient Safety Awards!**



Pictured in the photo are from back left: Jimmy Mitchell, Director, HRSA Office of Pharmacy Affairs; Kym Taflinger, ACHP Grants & Special Projects Director; John Stanovich, Assistant Dean, The University of Findlay College of Pharmacy; Denise Geolot, Director, HRSA Center for Quality. Front row left to right: Janis Sunderhaus, ACHP Chief Executive Officer and Jenny Clark, ACHP Pharmacy Director.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has awarded Allen County Health Partners and The University of Findlay, College of Pharmacy three awards, including the highest PSPC Performance Award, Clinical Pharmacy Services Improvement Award, and the Life Saving Patient Safety Award as part of HRSA's Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative (PSPC).

The PSPC is a new breakthrough effort to improve the quality of health care across America by integrating evidence-based clinical pharmacy services into the care and management of patients with chronic diseases. Integrating clinical pharmacy services into health care delivery is key to improving patient safety, according to a 1999 Institute of Medicine study, *To Err is Human*. Medication errors injure 1.5 million people every year, and for every dollar spent on ambulatory medications, another dollar is spent to treat new health problems caused by those medications.

Allen County Health Partners and The University of Findlay, College of Pharmacy have been participating in the PSPC for the past year. During this time, Allen County Health Partners has implemented new procedures to improve health outcomes, improve patient safety, and increase clinical pharmacy services. Patients have had access to discounted medication at our dispensing pharmacy since October 2006. Allen County Health Partners has worked very hard to examine safe medication practices throughout the facility and we are very excited to now offer our patients access to a clinical pharmacist. Patients have the ability to schedule an appointment directly with the clinical pharmacist to review medication therapy in an effort to decrease pill burden, reduce out of pocket expenses, and decrease side effects and potential interactions. The clinical pharmacist will also meet with patients to assist in the management of difficult treatment regimens for diseases such as asthma and high cholesterol.

“At ACHP patients are not managed solely by their primary care provider but rather by a team consisting of doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, behavioral health specialists, dentists, hygienists, pharmacists, medical assistants and numerous other support staff. Each member of the team focuses on what the individual patient needs to combat an acute illness or to improve the status of their chronic disease. Implementing clinical pharmacy services is another sign of commitment from the health center to support patients on a safer journey to better health” states Jenny Clark, Pharmacy Director for Allen County Health Partners.

John Stanovich, Assistant Dean for The University of Findlay, College of Pharmacy agrees. “The collaboration with Allen County Health Partners on this initiative has provided our pharmacy students with an excellent educational experience focused on providing clinical pharmacy services to improve patient care and health care outcomes. Allen County Health Partners and the PSPC serve as the model for health care reform and delivery. This is an excellent example of how health care should be delivered using a patient-centered medical home where collaboration between health care providers results in improved patient care, improved patient safety and seamless delivery of integrated health care services. Lima and the surrounding communities should be proud that such a health care facility is in our backyard. I know I am.”

Allen County Health Partners and The University of Findlay College of Pharmacy will be continuing efforts to improve patient safety as they begin the second year of PSPC. For more information on PSPC, please visit: [www.hrsa.gov/patientsafety](http://www.hrsa.gov/patientsafety).