

## Lakeland Named to Top 1% of Hospitals in U.S. for Excellence in Outcomes, Safety, Efficiency

CareScience, a healthcare awards group, using the most rigorous clinical data of any national awards organization, has given Lakeland HealthCare its top award for overall excellence in clinical outcomes, patient safety and efficiency. The award is given to the top 1 percent of hospitals in the country based on patient outcomes in 16 diagnostic categories. Patient outcomes include mortality and morbidity, while efficiency is measured from length-of-stay data. Selection criteria for the award do not include subjective opinion or reputation.

“We are proud and honored to be recognized for this award alongside only 45 hospitals in the country,” commented Joe Wasserman, CEO for Lakeland HealthCare. “It confirms that the day to day commitment of our associates to quality outcomes, patient safety and patient care can be ranked among the best healthcare organizations in the U.S.”

“Lakeland’s inclusion in the 2006 CareScience Select Practice National Quality Leader-Report confirms the organization’s dedication and success in implementing high quality patient care,” said Richard Bankowitz, M.D., MBA, vice president and medical director, CareScience. “We believe the CareScience Select Practice National Quality Leaders represent the country’s very best healthcare facilities for overall patient care, and based on Lakeland’s high level of clinical success, we are pleased to award them with a Select Practice designation.”

CareScience was founded in 1992 by a group of scholars and physicians from the University of Pennsylvania and the Wharton School of Business. They received a \$40 million grant from



Lowell Hamel, M.D.,  
Vice President for  
Medical Affairs at  
Lakeland



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the National Institutes to devise an objective clinical definition of quality. Their result, the 16 diagnostic categories reflecting quantifiable, verifiable data only, represents the consensus of several years of work. CareScience, a division of Quovadx, Inc., provides methodological expertise, analytic support and effective industry advocacy to more than 190 hospital and health system clients. CareScience also maintains active relationships with numerous quality organization including NQF and The Leapfrog Group, works with CMS and has facilitated support for the IHI 100K Lives Campaign. Perhaps unique among the national awards organizations, CareScience does not charge licensing fees for award recipients to publicize the awards.

“We consider it a privilege and an obligation to provide the highest level of clinical care for the community we serve,” commented Lowell Hamel, M.D., Vice President for Medical Affairs at Lakeland. “We are pleased for ourselves and our patients to be recognized with this award. The high-level performance recognized by this award is made possible by the strong collaborative relationship between Lakeland physicians, nurses and other caregivers; the support of the senior leadership; and the vision of the Board.”