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**For Immediate Release**

**The Competency & Credentialing Institute Names 2017 *TrueNorth* Award Winner**

Stamford Hospital Receives Highest Honor from  
Specialty Nursing Certification Organization

**Denver (February 22, 2017)** – The Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI) announced Stamford Hospital of Stamford, CT as the 2017 *TrueNorth* Award winner. Competency & Credentialing Institute (CCI) is a leader in credentialing, nursing competency assessment and education for the perioperative nursing community. Its ultimate goal is to improve quality patient care in the surgical setting.

The award recognizes facilities whose “true north” guides their operating room nursing staff to be lifelong learners, models of competent practice, and advocates for excellence in patient safety.

[Stamford Hospital](#) was selected as the winner after being carefully considered along many other competitive facilities. The hospital supports operating room nurses through the entire process of becoming Certified Perioperative Nurses (CNOR-certified). This includes having a [CNOR Coach](#) available to all staff, free on-site CNOR prep courses conducted annually, a lending library, and programs that offer free contact hours which may be used towards recertification.

[Cheryl Petrarca](#), Clinical Operations Director Perioperative Services, Tully Center expressed the honor that the group effort achieved by exclaiming “perhaps my greatest professional achievement had been obtaining my MSN, until this past week when my organization was the recipient of the 2017 True North Award; truly an honor!”

Craig Andrews, Director of Public Relations, Stamford Health expressed appreciation for the honor when she stated “Thank you so much for the honor – I know the periop[erative] team is over the moon receiving this recognition (as they should!)”

“Stamford Hospital truly sets the standard for support of nursing certification. It is both a pleasure and an honor to see this facility bring to life the best practices we have seen to support the professional development of perioperative nurses,” said Dr. Jim Stobinski, acting chief executive officer of CCI. “The enthusiasm and dedication of the entire staff to include the most senior nursing leadership is very inspiring.”

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CCI developed the *TrueNorth* Award program primarily based on the organization's firm beliefs in the role specialty nursing certification plays in quality patient care. Registered nurses are required to validate their specialized knowledge through the rigorous CNOR certification exam process. Certification in many ways acts as a compass directing a nurse's clinical practice towards industry accepted standards.

It is this empowerment that CCI seeks to foster in certified nurses. Not only is there a link between [CNOR certification and improved outcomes in surgical patients](#), certified nurses are also more confident in their skills.

Previous winners include [Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland, OR](#), [St. Clare Hospital in Lakewood, WA](#), and [Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital, The Woodlands, TX](#).

**About CCI:** Established in 1978, the Competency and Credentialing Institute provides the CNOR® and CSSM® credentials to more than 37,000 registered nurses. As the only certification body for perioperative nurses, CCI is one of the largest specialty nursing credentialing organizations. The mission of CCI is to lead competency credentialing that promotes safe, quality patient care and lifelong learning.

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