



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Qualis Health Recognizes Idaho Organizations for Improvements in Healthcare**

Boise, ID – Qualis Health, one of the nation’s leading healthcare consulting and care management organizations, presented the Idaho Awards of Excellence in Healthcare Quality today. Five healthcare organizations from across the state were recognized for achievements in improving healthcare quality and outcomes in 2011, and a special award was presented to Representative John M. Rusche, MD.

“Efforts to improve healthcare quality and value are an intense focus across the nation. With today’s awards, we celebrate Idaho organizations that have committed to transforming healthcare delivery for their patients, families and communities,” said Jonathan Sugarman, MD, MPH, President and CEO of Qualis Health. “The work being done here in Idaho reflects successful efforts to simultaneously improve care and lower cost.”

Dr. Rusche received the 2012 Qualis Health Award for Exemplary Contributions to Healthcare Quality in Idaho for sustained and significant contributions to the improvement of healthcare quality among Idaho communities. Through his leadership, as a physician and legislator in the Idaho House of Representatives, Dr. Rusche has made evident his dedication to improving healthcare delivery.

The award recipients were recognized during a lunchtime ceremony at the 2012 Annual Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Conference in Boise, Idaho. Dr. Sugarman and Linda Rowe, MS, Qualis Health’s Director of Idaho Care Transitions & Patient Safety, presented the awards. Over 250 healthcare leaders from across the state attended the event.

The 2011 Quality Awards of Excellence in Healthcare Quality were presented to the following organizations:

#### **CLEARWATER VALLEY HOSPITAL AND CLINICS – Orofino, Idaho**

Three-Part Aim: Improved Healthcare for Individuals, Better Health for the Community, Lower Per-Capita Costs

*Redesign of the Hospital Discharge Transition—Patient-Centered Care to Improve Safety, Cost and Outcome*

#### **BONNER GENERAL HOSPITAL– Sandpoint, Idaho**

Patient Safety Award

*Post-Surgical Peripheral Nerve Block Fall Prevention*

#### **KINDRED NURSING AND REHABILITATION—MOUNTAIN VALLEY – Kellogg, Idaho**

Organizational Culture Award

*Survey Focus—Growing from Managers to Leaders*

**KOOTENAI HEALTH – Coeur d’Alene, Idaho**

Infection Prevention Award

*Reducing Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) and the Associated Costs:  
Using Evidence-Based Guidelines and Research Methods to Improve Outcomes*

**ST. LUKE’S HEALTH SYSTEM – Boise, Idaho**

Clinical Care Improvement Award

*St. Luke’s Health System Sepsis Initiative*

**About Qualis Health**

Qualis Health is a national leader in improving care delivery and patient outcomes, working with clients throughout the public and private sector to advance the quality, efficiency and value of healthcare for millions of Americans every day. In Idaho, Qualis Health serves as the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (REC) for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONCHIT) and provides case management and utilization management services to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Medicaid. Learn more at [www.qualishealth.org](http://www.qualishealth.org).

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