



# Connecticut Children's Medical Center Recognized with 3M Award for Excellence in Skin Safety for Improving Skin Care Outcomes

*Award honors Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society™ (WOCN®) members for successful programs in advancing skin integrity*

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ST. PAUL, MINN. June 04, 2018 – 3M and the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN®) announced Connecticut Children's Medical Center's successful skin care program has received the seventh annual 3M Award for Excellence in Skin Safety. Representatives of Connecticut Children's skin care team accepted the award at the WOCN Society's 50<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Philadelphia on Sunday, June 3.

Ranked as one of the best children's hospitals in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, Connecticut Children's is a nationally recognized, 187-bed not-for-profit children's hospital in Hartford, Conn. The organization's skin care program was honored for its depth and breadth of services, and sustaining high-quality patient outcomes for more than six years.

Since implementation of the program in 2012, the hospital has maintained a pressure injury prevalence that remains lower than the National Database for Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI) and consistently meets the Solutions for Patient Safety (SPS) International Consortium of Children's Hospitals shared harm reduction goals to transform the safety and quality of care delivered in children's hospitals.

“Skin care is a very basic nursing function that competes daily with increasingly complex demands on nurses' time,” said Claire Hibbs-Cusson, BSN, RN, CWOCN, skin nurse specialist and skin care program coordinator at Connecticut Children's. “Our program aims to reduce that conflict by bringing skin integrity to the forefront of care and staffing a Healthy Skin Champion and Certified Wound Care Nurse in all in-

patient departments. The team's remarkable commitment to the program has made a tremendous impact on the quality of care we provide facility-wide."

The program began organically when two clinical educators started to see an uptick in both pressure injury prevention and skin care programs across the nation. The robust program now includes more than 40 team members and incorporates multiple levels of education and training to provide staff with the most current evidenced-based skin care practices.

The foundation of the program was built around and adheres to the SPS standard bundle elements – assessment, device rotation, patient positioning, appropriate bed surface and moisture management – for 10 hospital-acquired conditions (HACs) including pressure injury prevention. The Connecticut Children's team conducts quarterly pressure injury prevalence audits and tracks the hospital's performance against children's hospitals nationwide.

"Connecticut Children's core culture is rooted in high reliability patient safety and injury prevention," said Jim Shmerling, DHA, FACHE, President & CEO, Connecticut Children's Medical Center. "As an organization, we're committed to improving our care every day. We are so proud of the skin care team for embodying our culture of safety and helping ensure that our patients receive the absolute highest quality care."

The award is made possible by a partnership between the WOCN Society and 3M, who together aim to recognize the most innovative and inspiring individuals, or healthcare facilities, that have implemented a program to improve patient skin integrity and skin health.

"Skin is complex and amazing. As our largest organ, it guards our body, allows personal expression, and provides a window to our health. At 3M, we are on a mission to bring awareness to skin and have practitioners consider it an essential part of care and the patient experience," shared Todd Fruchterman, MD, PhD, President and General Manager for the 3M Critical & Chronic Care Solutions Division. "When healthcare providers think more deeply about skin and put it at the center of their practice every day, outcomes are improved and care is enhanced. The team from Connecticut Children's is a perfect example of how a skin-first approach can benefit not only patients, but also providers, and I hope their story inspires other facilities to explore a similar effort."

To be eligible for the award, facilities across the nation must demonstrate positive clinical outcomes that are achieved through best-in-class prevention protocols, teamwork, interdisciplinary participation, senior leadership engagement, and effective staff and patient education.

“Superior skin programs like this help advance the wound care specialty’s ever-growing significance in the patient-care equation,” added Kelly Jaszarowski, MSN, RN, CNS, ANP, CWOCN, president of the WOCN Society. “We are proud to partner with 3M in recognizing skin care teams like Connecticut Children’s for their devotion to making skin matter when caring for patients.”

For more information about all of the 3M Award for Excellence in Skin Safety winners and to learn more about how to enter next year’s competition, visit [3M.com/SkinAward](http://3M.com/SkinAward).

To discover how thinking skin-first can make a positive impact on care, visit [ThinkSkinDeeper.com](http://ThinkSkinDeeper.com).

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#### About Connecticut Children’s Medical Center

Connecticut Children’s Medical Center is the only hospital in Connecticut dedicated exclusively to the care of children. Connecticut Children’s is a nationally recognized not-for-profit with a medical staff of more than 1,000 providing comprehensive, world-class health care in more than 30 pediatric specialties and subspecialties. Connecticut Children’s Medical Center is the primary pediatric teaching hospital for the UConn School of Medicine, has a teaching partnership with the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University and is a research partner of Jackson Laboratory. Connecticut Children’s Office for Community Child Health is a national leader in community-based prevention and wellness programs. A 501(c)(3) Organization.