



**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HOSPITALS AND CLINICS RECOGNIZED FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SPIRITUAL CARE**

Hospital Meets HealthCare Chaplaincy Network's National Standards

New York, N.Y. (January 17, 2017)—HealthCare Chaplaincy Network (HCCN) recently awarded its elite “Excellence in Spiritual Care” award to University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, part of University of Iowa Health Care, Iowa City, Iowa—demonstrating the health care setting’s commitment to providing quality spiritual and religious care to its patients.

The award signifies that the hospital has met HCCN’s proprietary national quality standards, which are based on professional literature and the organization’s extensive 55-year history as a leader in spiritual-related clinical care, education and research. A growing body of research demonstrates the positive impact of spiritual care, including improved quality of life and patient satisfaction scores.

“University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics is honored to receive this prestigious award from the HealthCare Chaplaincy Network, and we are grateful that the wonderful work done by our spiritual services team has been recognized through receipt of this award,” said Cindy Dawson, interim chief nursing officer.

In addition, she said, “We understand and appreciate the vital role that faith plays for many patients and families dealing with health crises. Our commitment to providing excellent, holistic patient care, includes caring for the spiritual needs of the patients and families we have the privilege and honor of serving.”

Its Department of Spiritual Care offers spiritual support, care and counsel to patients and families dealing with medical crises, illness and hospitalization. The department is composed of three denominational chaplains who serve their own denominational members, and seven interfaith chaplains who provide care to intensive care unit patients and their families. Chaplains are available for ministry 24 hours every day. The hospital also conducts regularly scheduled religious services for patients, family, visitors and staff.

“We congratulate the chaplains and the entire team at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics for their commitment to meeting the spiritual aspect of whole-person care,” said Rev. Eric J. Hall, HCCN’s president and CEO. “Health care settings that receive this sought-after award serve as a model for other institutions to follow, for the benefit of patients, families and staff.”

Since June 2015, HCCN has recognized a dozen hospitals and one hospice in six states; many other health care settings nationwide are undergoing the detailed review process. As part of the evaluation, HCCN specialists identify areas in an institution’s spiritual care program in need of improvement—and provides consultation to achieve goals, and assists in more fully integrating chaplaincy services into its overall health care delivery.

About HealthCare Chaplaincy Network

HealthCare Chaplaincy Network is a global health care nonprofit organization that offers spiritual-related information and resources, and professional chaplaincy services in hospitals, other health care settings, and online. Its mission is to advance the integration of spiritual care in health care through clinical practice, research and education in order to increase patient satisfaction and help people faced with illness and grief find comfort and meaning—whoever they are, whatever they believe, wherever they are. For more information, visit www.healthcarechaplaincy.org, call 212-644-1111, and connect with us on twitter and Facebook.

About University of Iowa Health Care

University of Iowa Health Care (UI Health Care), based in Iowa City, Iowa, is the state’s only comprehensive academic medical center. It includes University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital, the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, and University of Iowa Physicians, the state’s largest multi-specialty physician group practice.

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