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**NBHN's Women's Health Service Receives Prominent
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
Safety Net Patient Safety Award**

*NAPH Bestows Prestigious Safety Net Patient Safety Award
for Labor and Delivery Initiative*

BRONX, NY, July 22, 2011 – The North Bronx Healthcare Network’s Women’s Health Service recently received the prestigious National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH) Safety Net Patient Safety Award for its *Reducing Adverse Outcomes on Labor and Delivery* initiative. The NAPH’s Safety Net Awards Ceremony recognizes those organizations which have been recognized for best practices by implementing the best safety initiatives using evidence-based guidelines.

The initiative was designed to reduce the occurrence of certain adverse Perinatal events that are considered devastating, yet unpreventable in the culture of many hospitals. Such events include hemorrhage, hematoma, laceration, and Erb’s Palsy.

Erb’s Palsy results from shoulder dystocia, which occurs when the baby’s head emerges from the birth canal, but the shoulder becomes wedged behind the mother’s pubic bone. The neck can then be stretched to the side during delivery, causing paralysis by damaging the nerves which control use of the arm. One of the interventions to help prevent Erb’s is a strict protocol for use of the drug Oxytocin - a drug which induces labor, but is also a high alert medication linked to these adverse Perinatal outcomes.

The NBHN Women’s Health Service developed their safety initiatives by joining the Perinatal Collaborative of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, an organization which partners with healthcare providers around the world to establish and support ways to provide safe and effective care. It developed a process to analyze key labor and delivery data, and identified certain risk factors strongly associated with these adverse outcomes. It then implemented a number of interventions which included a customized protocol for use of Oxytocin during labor, study cycles to test changes and monitor compliance with the protocol, and TeamSTEPPS training for staff.

TeamSTEPPS is a toolkit of evidence-based methods designed by the Department of Defense and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Its goal is to provide better, safer healthcare through improved communication and teamwork skills among healthcare professionals.

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2/3 NAPH Award

The interventions have been a huge success for the 4,000 deliveries which the hospitals perform annually. Last year, the rate of deliveries complicated by shoulder dystocia dropped to 1.4%, from 4% in 2008. The rate of Erb's Palsy was negligible at 0.08%, compared to 0.4% in 2008. And the number of adverse occurrences overall dropped by half, to about 35/month in July 2010 compared to approximately 80/month in January 2009.

"I had a wonderful delivery experience," commented Yanique Johnson, whose baby boy Evan was born at NCB in May. "The nurses and doctors explained everything, and took such good care of us, that I knew my baby and I were safe in the best of hands."

"The Women's Health Service team is committed to doing everything possible to maximize a safe delivery," Susan Gross, MD, FRCS(C), FACOG, FACMG, Chairperson, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, NBHN. "And our initiative has reduced adverse incidents, while maintaining cesarean section rates well below the national average. We are proud that the NAPH has recognized our efforts to create a safe environment for our patients."

The NBHN's Women's Health Service was also recently awarded the Health Association of New York State (HANYS) 2011 Pinnacle Award for Quality and Patient Safety for these achievements.



Caption – The North Bronx Healthcare Network recently received the 2011 NAPH Safety Net Award for its *Reducing Adverse Outcomes on Labor and Delivery* initiative, which makes the Labor and Delivery process a safer experience for mothers and babies. Pictured (l-r): The Women's Health Service team lead by Susan Gross, MD, Chairperson (front row, center) and Wendy Wilcox, MD, Vice Chairperson (second row, 3rd from left).

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About the North Bronx Healthcare Network

The North Bronx Healthcare Network is comprised of Jacobi Medical Center and North Central Bronx Hospital, member facilities of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. A major teaching hospital affiliated with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Jacobi offers numerous centers of excellence including its renowned Trauma Center, Multi-person Hyperbaric Unit, Burn Center, Surgical Intensive Care Unit and Women's Health Center. North Central Bronx Hospital (NCBH), a 215 bed community hospital, specializes in women's and children's services. Over the years NCBH has reconfigured the range of services it offers to match the changing healthcare landscape and needs of the communities it serves.

About The National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems

NAPH represents the nation's largest metropolitan hospitals and health systems that fulfill a safety net mission of providing high volumes of care to low income individuals. These facilities provide high quality health services for all patients, including the uninsured and underinsured, regardless of ability to pay. In addition to functioning as the country's default national health insurance system, public hospitals provide many essential community wide services, such as primary care, trauma care, and neonatal intensive care. Public hospitals also train many of America's doctors, nurses, and other health care providers. Since its inception in 1980, NAPH has cultivated a strong presence on Capitol Hill, with the executive branch, and in many state capitols. NAPH advocates on behalf of its members on such issues as Medicaid, Medicare, and access to health care services for vulnerable populations. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.naph.org>

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