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Simpler Healthcare Hosts Lean Workshop at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Annual Forum

*Hospital Executives Discuss How to Improve Patient Care and Employee Retention
While Reducing Costs with Lean Principles*

Orlando, Florida, December 8, 2009—Simpler HealthcareSM, a division of Simpler Consulting, LP, and the world leader in lean transformation for the healthcare industry, today announced it will host a workshop, “Transforming Organizations through Lean Principles,” as part of Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) 21st Annual National Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care on Tuesday, December 8 at the Marriot World Center in Orlando, Florida. The workshop, which runs from 9:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., provides a forum for Simpler Healthcare clients to share their successful experiences providing quality patient care, retaining employees and reducing costs in a variety of departments across the hospital system. Executives presenting at the workshop are among the first in the nation to apply lean management principles in the health care setting.

Simpler Healthcare pioneered the utilization of lean transformation in healthcare based on its successful track record of applying lean management in non-traditional sectors. Built on the same model as the Toyota Production System, Simpler Healthcare trains health care organizations to help their employees at all levels see and eliminate waste: or anything that does not add value to patients. By involving and coaching hospital physicians, nurses, and administration, Simpler Healthcare provides the tools to apply the concept of lean management across the entire organization, not just in a single department.

According to a recent Thomson Reuters report, the U.S. healthcare system wastes between \$600 billion and \$850 billion annually. The majority of this waste is comprised of unnecessary care, system fraud, administrative inefficiencies and medical errors.

“Hospitals cannot afford to wait until the passage of the health care reform bill to start eliminating waste,” said Simpler Americas President and Simpler Healthcare General Manager Mike Chamberlin. “Our workshop will teach hospitals of any size how to take matters into their own hands—applying lean management tools that can both improve the quality of care and reduce costs.”

The workshop will include presentations from executives from five hospitals that have recently undergone successful Lean enterprise transformations. Some of the featured presenters and topics include:

- **Michel Tetreault**, CEO, St. Boniface General Hospital (Winnipeg, MB), will discuss how the hospital used Lean to redistribute surgical services and improve patient care.
- **Laura Easton**, CEO, Caldwell Memorial Hospital (Lenoir, NC); **Chuck Mantooh**, CEO, Cannon Memorial Hospital (Linville, NC) and **Jeff Spade**, VP, North Carolina Hospital Association will share how collaboration among local rural hospitals lead to breakthrough results.
- **Brett Esrock**, President, Lubbock Hospitals, and COO, Covenant Health System (Lubbock, Texas), will emphasize the importance of committing resources and trusting the process during a Lean transformation.
- **David O'Brien**, COO, St. Mary Medical Center (Apple Valley, CA), will educate executives on how to create a Lean culture and what to expect for results.
- **Nancy McDonald**, RN, Lean Facilitator, Denver Health Medical Center (Denver, Colorado), will share how her team used Lean to improve clinic flow and decrease discharge time for newborns and their mothers.

Following the presentations, Simpler Healthcare will moderate a panel discussion with all the speakers on best practices in implementing lean management practices in a healthcare setting.

About Simpler Healthcare

Simpler HealthcareSM, a division of Simpler Consulting, LP, is the world leader in lean transformation for the healthcare industry. The company pioneered the utilization of lean transformation in healthcare based on its successful track record of applying lean management in non-traditional sectors. With its proprietary Simpler Business System®, Simpler Healthcare Sensei have delivered the fastest and most enduring lean transformations at more than 75 healthcare provider networks around the world.

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