



## News Release

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### American Board of Nursing Specialties Selects Winner of the 2007 Nursing Certification Advocacy Award

**AURORA, Ohio, April 23, 2007** | The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) announced today that the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pennsylvania, was selected as the recipient of the *2007 ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy*. The announcement was made by Brenda Dugger, Chair of the ABNS Awards and Recognition Committee, at the spring 2007 ABNS Assembly Meeting, held March 2-3, 2007, in Costa Mesa, California.

Since its founding in 1991, ABNS has worked to create uniformity in nursing certification and to increase public awareness of the value of quality certification. The ABNS Award for Nursing Certification Advocacy was developed as a means to publicly recognize organizations, facilities, or departments that advocate for, or promote, specialty nursing certification.

“The programs in place at the Robert Packer Hospital to support nurses seeking certification and to recognize those that have succeeded truly advance the value of nursing certification,” noted Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, RN, CAE, Chief Executive Officer of ABNS. “As the Awards and Recognition Committee evaluated the nomination materials submitted for this award, several things particularly stood out. First, the encouragement by Robert Packer Hospital for nurses to seek national certification by reimbursement of exam expense, sponsored review courses and paid time off is real commitment by the hospital. As well, internal recognition of certified staff via facility newsletters, the Certification celebration event, the “wall of honor” and certification credentials on name tags are further evidence of support. The requirement of certification to be

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promoted to higher levels in the RPH Clinical Advancement Program will ensure that certification in a specialty area will be rewarded in an appropriate manner,” Niebuhr added. “Through efforts such as those demonstrated in the nomination application submitted, the ABNS vision – *Specialty nursing certification is THE standard by which the public recognizes quality nursing care* – will be achieved!”

Robert Packer Hospital is a 238-bed tertiary care teaching hospital serving the southern tier of New York and the northern tier of Pennsylvania. A community resource since 1885, the hospital is a significant part of the history of Guthrie Health. The hospital is known for specialized services such as advanced and minimally invasive surgery, cardiac care, cancer care, joint replacement, specialty eye care and more. “Certification by our nursing staff demonstrates additional competence within an area of specialty nursing that supports a culture of professionalism. Overall this translates to better outcomes for our patients and a work environment where excellence is promoted,” stated Bonnie Onofre MS, RN, CRNP, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of Robert Packer Hospital. The organization's purpose statement: "Making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve through compassion and excellence in health care. Every person. Every time." exemplifies the staff's goal of meeting patients' needs.

Recently, the hospital has received national recognition as a 2006 Solucient 100 Top Hospital, one of only four hospitals in Pennsylvania to receive this recognition. In addition, the hospital has been named a Solucient Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospital four times in five years; a Solucient Top 100 Performance Improvement Hospital twice in three years; and was accredited as a Cycle II Chest pain Center – with PCI, by the Society of Chest Pain Centers, only the twentieth hospital in the country to earn this designation. For more information about Robert Packer Hospital or Guthrie Health, visit [www.guthrie.org](http://www.guthrie.org)

Among the criteria necessary to win this award, the organization must document the total number of direct patient care RNs and the number and percentage of those direct patient care RNs who are certified in specialty nursing as well as the total number of nursing managers in the organization and the number and percentage of those nursing managers who are certified.

Other criteria include how the organization supports those nurses interested in seeking certification by providing reimbursement of certification examination fees, providing

certification examination review courses or reimbursing for attendance at a review course, and/or providing paid time off to take certification examination or review course.

ABNS President, Mary Alexander, MBA, RN, CRNI, CAE, will present the award in person to the Robert Packer Hospital and sections of the Award Application may be posted on the ABNS Website so that others may see the results of successful certification promotion and its implications on patient care.

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***Editors Note:***

The American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) is a membership organization that maintains a national peer review program for nursing specialty certification. The mission of ABNS is to promote the value of specialty nursing certification to all stakeholders. Currently, twenty-eight ABNS Regular Member and one Associate Member Organizations represent nearly half a million specialty certified registered nurses. Its thirteen Affiliate Members include providers of key certification-related testing products and services. One Public Member represents the consumer's perspectives on issues about specialty nursing certification. For further information about ABNS, visit [www.nursingcertification.org](http://www.nursingcertification.org) or email Bonnie Niebuhr, MS, RN, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, at [ABNSCEO@aol.com](mailto:ABNSCEO@aol.com).

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