

## **Hospital-acquired Conditions (HACs)**

It is abundantly clear that longer hospital stays are often associated with an increased risk of developing one or more hospital-acquired conditions.

Nationwide, if 40% of these HACs could be reduced this would result in 1.8 million fewer patient injuries, save more than 60,000 lives and save Medicare more than \$ 20 billion. Additionally four of these (hospital-acquired infections, hospital-acquired injuries, objects left in patients after surgery and pressure ulcers) comprise 12% of total medical professional liability costs and account for one in six malpractice claims.

HACs include, but are not limited to adverse drug events, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, central line-associated bloodstream infections, falls, pressure ulcers, surgical site infections, venous thromboembolism and ventilator-associated pneumonia.

Beginning in October, 2014 some of these HACs also factor into Medicare's Value-Based Purchasing program for hospitals.

Clark Memorial Hospital has multiple initiatives in place in an effort to reduce the number of hospital-acquired conditions as much as possible.