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Patient Safety and Quality director Cassie Davenport, R.N., B.S.N., C.P.H.Q., (left) congratulates Williamson Medical Center infection preventionist Vicki Sweeney, R.N., who recently was named Employee of the Quarter.

Infection Preventionist honored as WMC Employee of the Quarter

FRANKLIN, TENN. – Williamson Medical Center infection preventionist Vicki Sweeney, R.N., recently was honored as Williamson Medical Center Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2011.

Sweeney received a \$500 check, a reserved parking spot and a chance to be recognized as WMC’s Employee of the Year. Employees were nominated for the award by their co-workers for upholding WMC’s Standards of Performance.

Sweeney started at WMC as a Fourth Floor surgical nurse in 2003 before moving to the Critical Care Unit. Four years later, she transitioned to her current role in Infection Prevention.

“Vicki is a team player and always wants what is best for the patient,” says Cassie Davenport, R.N., B.S.N., C.P.H.Q., director of Patient Safety and Quality. “She has served on

several WMC teams that have led the way in decreasing infections. She has educated staff on the need to protect our patients from infectious diseases and makes herself available for questions.”

Under Sweeney’s leadership, Williamson Medical Center has increased its hand hygiene compliance, achieved the rare accomplishment of zero incidents of ventilator-associated pneumonia for more than a year and is approaching a year without a bloodstream infection.

Sweeney says she is honored to receive the award, but credits much of the success to a team effort—from co-workers she interacts closely with on a daily basis to the rest of the hospital staff, including the senior leadership team.

“Infection prevention and patient safety are all about teamwork,” she says. “It’s not a one-person job; rather we all have to work together to protect our patients and give them the best possible care.”

Other nominees for Employee of the Quarter were nurse technician Renae Dawson (Third Floor); Andrea Fowler, R.N., (Chest Pain Center); Jackie Hicklen, R.N., (Post-Anesthesia Care Unit); graphic designer Neal Miles (Marketing and Public Relations); Tracy Schwartz, R.R.T., (Physician Practice); physical therapist Laura Snyder; and technician Danny Waddey (Emergency Department).

Williamson Medical Center, a 185-bed hospital fully accredited by The Joint Commission, provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care including emergency services, with credentialed physicians in 53 specialties and sub-specialties. The community-focused hospital offers a wide range of wellness services, screenings and classes. For more information about Williamson Medical Center, visit www.williamsonmedicalcenter.org.

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