

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**CALIFORNIA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER NAMED  
PRACTICE GREENHEALTH PARTNER FOR CHANGE**

**Formally Acknowledged for Environmentally Preferable Practices**

**(LOS ANGELES, CA)** – Dignity Health - California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) was awarded the 2014 “Greenhealth Partner for Change” Award by Practice Greenhealth, the nation’s leading health care community that empowers its members to increase their efficiencies and environmental stewardship while improving patient safety and care through tools, best practices and knowledge.

The Award is one of the organization’s Environmental Excellence Awards given each year to honor outstanding environmental achievements in the health care sector.

The Greenhealth Partner for Change Award recognizes health care facilities that continuously improve and expand upon their mercury elimination, waste reduction, recycling and source reduction programs. At a minimum, facilities applying for this Award must be recycling 15 percent of their total waste, have reduced regulated medical waste, are well along the way to mercury elimination, and have developed other successful pollution prevention programs in many different areas. California Hospital Medical Center went above and beyond these baseline requirements with a number of notable initiatives, including:

- The grand opening of Hope Street Family Center, a Silver Level LEED-certified green building that features natural lighting, repurposed building material, and xeroscaping (landscaping that reduces or eliminates the need for supplemental water from irrigation).
- A comprehensive recycling program that includes cans, bottles, cardboard, light bulbs, batteries, e-waste, furniture, baby bottles, and blue wrap, a plastic material used to protect sterilized surgical equipment. 1,128 pounds of blue wrap were diverted from the landfill in 2013 year alone.
- Operating as a mercury-free facility for the past seven years. California Hospital Medical Center is a leader in the community on this issue.
- Replacing the burner in the boiler to cut natural gas use by about 35%.

“We take pride in our sustainability efforts to lessen our impact on the environment and provide the safest setting for our patients,” said Kim Ray, Environmental Services Coordinator of California Hospital Medical Center. “As a Practice Greenhealth Partner for Change Award winner, California Hospital is committed to the health of our patients, staff, and community as a whole.”

The Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Awards were presented June 5 in Cleveland, Ohio, at the CleanMed Conference & Exhibition, the premier national environmental conference for leaders in health care sustainability.

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**About Dignity Health - California Hospital Medical Center**

Dignity Health - California Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) is located in the heart of Los Angeles, California. The 318-bed acute care hospital has been providing high quality, indispensable care for more than 126 years. A vital community resource, CHMC is known for its wide range of specialty care, from

Orthopedics and Surgical Services to Women's Health and Maternal Child Care. It is also the only Level II Trauma Center in downtown Los Angeles, one of the country's most vibrant and growing cities. For more information, please visit [www.chmcla.org](http://www.chmcla.org).

**About Practice Greenhealth**

Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading health care community that empowers its members to increase their efficiencies and environmental stewardship while improving patient safety and care through tools, best practices and knowledge. To learn more about Practice Greenhealth, please visit [www.practicegreenhealth.org](http://www.practicegreenhealth.org).