



**Continuum** Health Partners, Inc.

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**Beth Israel Nurse Practitioner Named First Nurse Scholar-In-Residence**  
**By Joint Commission Resources and Hill-Rom**

*Irene M. Jankowski to Lead Efforts to Develop Tools and Insights  
Into The Prevention of Pressure Ulcers*

New York, NY (May 11, 2009) Nurse practitioner Irene M. Jankowski, A.P.R.N., B.C., M.S.N., C.W.O.C.N., of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City, has been named the first Nurse Safety Scholar-in-Residence, a role launched this year by Joint Commission Resources (JCR) and Hill-Rom (NYSE:HRC). JCR is a non-profit affiliate of The Joint Commission. Hill-Rom is a global medical technology company.

Recognizing the important role that nurses play in translating evidence-based findings into excellent care at the patient's bedside, the Nurse Safety Scholar-in-Residence program focuses initially on developing tools and best practices to maintain skin integrity and to prevent pressure ulcers. An estimated 2.5 million patients are treated annually for pressure ulcers in acute care facilities in the United States, according to studies published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 2003 and 2006. Lengths of stay, discharges to long term care settings, average patient age, and mortality were all higher in patients with pressure ulcers than in those without. Pressure ulcers are among the preventable conditions and events on Medicare's "no pay" list.

Jankowski is a certified wound, ostomy and continence specialist who has published and presented on interventions to prevent pressure ulcers. She earned a master's degree in nursing from Lehman College of the City, University of New York and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the State University of New York, New Paltz.

“Irene is a proven nurse leader whose front-line experience will be valuable in developing and sharing innovative solutions to prevent pressure ulcers,” says Harris Nagler, M.D., President of Beth Israel. “We are thrilled that JCR and Hill-Com have acknowledged this excellence and chosen her as their first scholar.”

“We are excited to see this program move forward with the naming of our first scholar. At Hill-Rom, we strive to use our resources in ways that make a difference every day in the lives of patients and their caregivers and this type of program is a perfect fit for us,” says Melissa Fitzpatrick, R.N., M.S.N., F.A.A.N., vice president and chief clinical officer, Hill-Rom. “This collaborative effort with JCR in this important research is one key way to support the discovery of new solutions to truly enhance the safety and ultimate positive outcomes for patients.”

Jankowski will serve a 12-month appointment as Patient Safety Nurse Scholar-in-Residence, working closely with JCR and Hill-Rom experts to achieve the goals of the program:

- To foster the professional development of expert nurse clinicians and scholars to become translators of evidence into practice;
- To identify best practice processes and technology associated with providing safe care for specific clinical problems; and
- To establish hospital-based collaborative projects focused on clinical challenges and adverse events, initially relating to skin care.

For more information about the program, please visit <http://www.jcrinc.com/JCR-Hill-Rom-Nurse-Scholar/>. The site will be updated regularly as Jankowski chronicles her work throughout the scholarship period.