

Premier Is First Hospital Group to Join Joint Commission IMS Project

In early January, Premier Health Alliance Inc. became the first hospital group to become a "quality partner" in the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations' Indicator Measurement System (IMS). The IMS, which is intended to help hospitals improve patient care quality, is designed to be a reference database on hospital clinical performance.

Participation in IMS is voluntary in 1994 and 1995. When the Joint Commission makes it an integral part of the accreditation process in 1996 or 1997, reports containing hospital-specific indicator information will be available to the public, along with comparative national data.

A spokesperson for Premier said discussions had begun with officials from its 50-member tertiary not-for-profit hospitals, systems, and networks about voluntarily enrolling in the IMS project. The Joint Commission expects about half of Premier's members to participate.

The IMS this year will allow participating hospitals to measure and compare their performance using 10 obstetrical and performance indicators. In 1995 and 1996, indicators covering trauma care, oncology care, cardiovascular care, medication use, infection control, and other areas will be added.

FROM: *AHA News* January 10, 1994.

Resurgence of Pertussis in United States

From January 3, 1993, through December 4, 1993, 5,457 pertussis cases were reported to the CDC—an 83% increase over the number reported during the same period in 1992 (3,004 cases) and the highest annual number of cases reported since 1967. Almost 44% of cases were infants (< 1 year), 20% were aged 1 to 4, 11% were 5 to 9 years old, and 23% were over 10 years old. Sixty-one percent of cases had received fewer than three doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccine (DTP).

In addition to prevention through vaccination, control of pertussis and interruption of transmission requires prompt recognition of disease by healthcare providers and timely administration of effective antimicrobials (ie, erythromycin or trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole) to persons with pertussis or their close contacts. Healthcare providers should suspect the diagnosis of pertussis in persons of all age groups who develop a cough lasting more than 7 days.

FROM: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Resurgence of pertussis. *MMWR* 1993;42:952-953.

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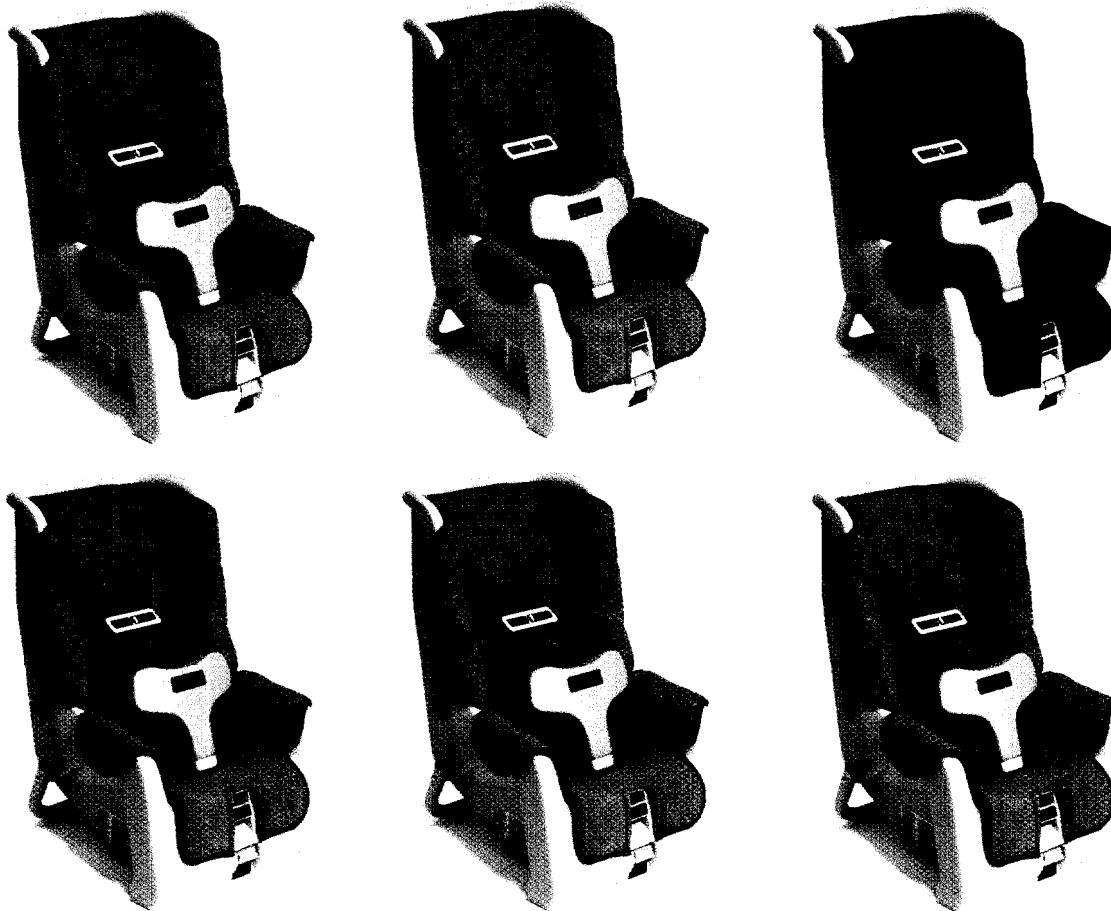
B.S. degree is preferred from an accredited school of Nursing or Physician Assistants programs. Knowledge of microbiology, statistics and personal computers, ability to communicate effectively with a wide variety of individuals and to write accurate, concise reports.

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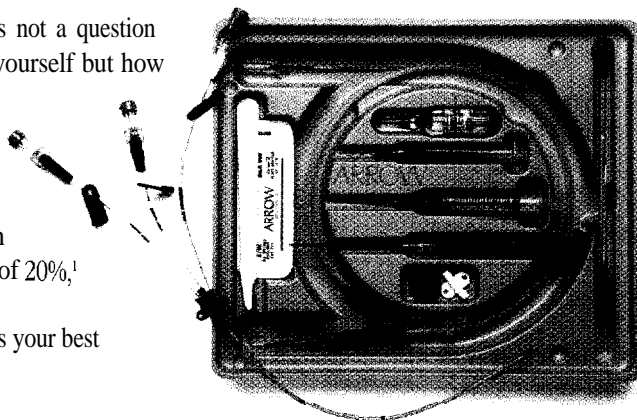


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¹ Elliot, TSJ: Intravascular device related infections. J. Med. Microbiol; 27:161-167; 1968. ² ARROWgard Blue[™] is a joint development of Daltex Medical Services, Inc., and Arrow International, Inc. using technology developed by Dr. Shanta Modak and colleagues, in the Department of Surgery, Columbia University. U.S. Patent Numbers 4,612,337, 4,563,485, 4,581,028, 5,019,096; other U.S. and foreign patents pending ³ Maki, DG; Wheeler, SJ; Stolz, SM: Study of a novel antiseptic coated central venous catheter. Presented at the Society of Critical Care Medicine Annual Symposium; Washington, D.C., May 1991