



## Ernest Amory Codman Award

*National Health Care Award for Performance Measurement*

### 2007 Ernest Amory Codman Award Recipient

#### Organization Award: Hospital

**Broward General Medical Center**  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

#### For Its Initiative: “Improving Outcomes in Pediatric Procedural Sedation”

[Click here for initiative profile](#)

The sedation of children for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures is challenging. In fact, multiple centers report a 15 percent sedation failure rate for radiological procedures in children related to excessive movement and delirium. Failed sedation results in prolonged imaging times, rescheduled tests that may require the use of anesthesia, and increased stress for the patient, parents and staff. In 2003, Broward General had a failed sedation rate of 12.29 percent—more than six times the national benchmark.

Staff at Broward General recognized that the sedatives used, administration techniques, and safety standards varied, even within institutions. They set goals to develop a standard protocol to reduce failed sedation; to increase the efficiency and safety of pediatric sedation by involving parents; and to create a child-friendly atmosphere to ease children’s fears. Sedation procedures at Broward General are now marked by rapid and reliable onset of sedative effect, maintenance of the patient’s airway, adequate spontaneous ventilation, continuing cardiovascular stability, and a smooth and predictable awakening.

#### Achievements

- Reduced the failed sedation rate by 98 percent, to 1.63 percent in 2004, to 0.19 percent in 2005, and to 0.28 percent in 2006—well below the national benchmark of 2 percent.
- Eliminated rescheduled exams and failed procedures by using a more effective sedative (precdex).
- Improved parent satisfaction to 99 percent from 62 percent and physician satisfaction to 100 percent from 33 percent.
- Created a pediatric sedation unit that is recognized as a national best practice.
- Sustained improvement over three years.