

# Press Release

Waldo County Healthcare, Inc., 118 Northport Ave., P.O. Box 287, Belfast, ME 04915

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## WCGH Infection Control Nurse Honored at Conference

**Belfast, Maine** – State Epidemiologist for The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Kathleen F. Gensheimer, presented, Infection Control and Prevention Nurse Rob Fowler, RN, BSN, of Waldo County General Hospital a Public Health Epidemiology Recognition Award November 6. According to Dr. Gensheimer “The purpose of the award is show our appreciation and to give proper acknowledgement to those individuals who have contributed to promoting strategic disease control strategies.”

The award is dedicated in memory of Dr. John Snow for his outstanding epidemiological contributions during the London cholera epidemic of 1854. Dr. Snow’s investigations implicated the Broad Street pump as a source of cholera-contaminated water in London’s Soho district. The plaque is engraved with the Broad Street Pump which has come to symbolize much of what is important in epidemiology and public health.

Thanks to the dedication of Fowler and the Infection Control Committee Waldo County General Hospital exceeds the standard in infection control policies. “I am honored to be recognized by my colleagues. The Infection Control Practitioners throughout the state are a great group to work with. We all lean on one another for support when the need arises,” says Fowler

adding, “I am excited about what I do. I am able to work with many healthcare professionals within the hospital and this position has allowed me to grow in my profession.”

Kathie Boogaart, MS, RN, Director of Patient Care Services says, ‘The Waldo County General Hospital family is proud of Rob’s achievement. The Maine Epidemiology Recognition Award given to Rob denotes his commitment to excellence as an Infection Control and Prevention professional. He has raised the bar for patient and staff safety at our hospital and has been a tremendous role model.’

Fowler began his employment with the hospital as a nurse in both the Emergency department and Recovery Room and was promoted to Infection Control Nurse in May 2005. In this position he monitors the status of communicable diseases within the community and hospital, provides nursing education for proper infection control techniques, maintains the hospital’s compliance of Infection Control policies and monitors journals and literature for new infection control policies and procedures.

Fowler chairs both the Infection Control Committee and Needle Safety Committee and is a member of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee within the hospital. He is also the treasurer for the Association of Professionals for Infection Control and a member of MaineHealth’s Infection Prevention and Control Consortium Steering Committee.

Waldo County General Hospital is a not-for-profit community hospital that has been *caring for our neighbors since 1901*. The mission of the organization is *To Be The Best: Better, Empathy, Service, Teamwork*.

**Photo Caption: Rob Fowler, RN, BSN, Waldo County General Hospital Infection Control and Prevention Nurse, feels honored to have been awarded Public Health Epidemiology Recognition Award.**

**Note to Media:** If you would like to pursue this story further, please contact Nicole Heanssler in the Community Relations department at 930-6740.

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