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Better healthcare is a critical element of sustained development for India. However, a key challenge India has in expanding quality healthcare is the demand supply gap. Bridging this gap is only possible through collaboration - collaboration between healthcare providers, private organizations and manufacturers, as well as public bodies to uplift standards of healthcare in India.

One such collaboration, between 3M India Ltd. and NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers), where a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to promote best practices and standards in hospitals to prevent healthcare associated infections and also promote quality care for patients in India, was recognized at the eINDIA awards, that was concluded on 23rd July 2013 in Hyderabad. 3M and NABH were awarded for their project "Up-gradation of standards & practices in healthcare in India (A 3M NABH joint initiative)". The Awards were presented by Honourable Minister of IT, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Mr Ponnala Lakshmaiah, Mr P K Mohanty, Chief Secretary - Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Mr. Sanjay Jaju, Secretary - IT, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

The project involved designing of several educational modules to upgrade health care services. These modules were then demonstrated hands-on through several extensive day long workshops designed on topics such as Surgical Site Infection Prevention, Sterilization Assurance, IV Therapy - Catheter Related Blood Stream Infection Prevention, Wound Management & Casting workshops across India to healthcare providers.

Over the last one and a half years, 14 such workshops have been organized all over India with participation from more than 450 healthcare providers across 150 hospitals. Over 50 industry experts along with 3M personnel have facilitated these workshops through a healthy mix of lectures, case studies, hands-on demo and panel discussions. 3M has also developed toolkits for many hospitals to ensure effective implementation by healthcare providers after attending these workshops. The participants of these workshops have now become the ambassadors of best healthcare practices in their respective institutions while 3M & NABH are continuously working to take this project forward to many more hospitals and cities with

more relevant infection prevention topics.

On receipt of the award, Mr. Gautam Khanna, Executive Director, 3M Health Care Business - India, said, "We are honoured to receive this prestigious award. Our collaboration with NABH is a successful example of how the government objective of high quality standards of healthcare can be achieved by leveraging private expertise. Empowering healthcare professionals through upgrading of practices is critical to improve the standard of healthcare in India. Achieving this has come about as a result of the tremendous support and teamwork we have experienced with NABH."

Dr. Kalra, CEO, NABH said, "Quality in Healthcare is being recognized as a key parameter all over the world. It aims directly at saving precious lives. Management of medication and control of infections, have emerged as two principal points, which if attended, can improve patient safety many fold. NABH is pleased that our collaboration with 3M in a mission to promote quality healthcare in our country has got this recognition."

This recognition also complements 3M's ongoing efforts to help prevent and control infection related to morbidity and mortality, thus raising the standards of quality of healthcare imparted in hospitals and subsequently reduce the cost of care linked to healthcare associated infection. This is 3M's third national award within a year after winning the prestigious Wound Management Company of the Year Award at the Frost & Sullivan Healthcare Excellence Awards, and the QCI - DL Shah National Award for Healthcare Services awarded by the Quality Council of India, for its significant contribution towards infection prevention.

3M Health Care offers solutions in the medical, oral care, drug delivery, food safety and health information markets. We have an unparalleled ability to connect people, insights, science and technology to think beyond today, solve problems, and make better health possible. Our culture of collaboration empowers us to discover and deliver practical, proven solutions that enable our customers to protect and improve the health of people around the world.

National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) is a constituent board of Quality Council of India, set up to establish and operate accreditation programme for healthcare organisations. The board is structured to cater to the much desired needs of the consumers and to set benchmarks for progress of health industry. The board, while being supported by all stakeholders including industry, consumers, government, has full functional autonomy in its operation.