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Group formed to investigate hospital-acquired infections

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COLUMBIA, SC (WIS) - Three key health groups came together Wednesday to announce the formation of the South Carolina Healthcare Quality Trust.

The group is a collaborative effort throughout the state to see why there are so many hospital-acquired infections.

In fact, in the nation, 1.7 million people get an infection from a medical facility.

Health officials want to use the new trust to help the largest hospital systems to the smallest rural facilities.

Thornton Kirby, CEO of the South Carolina Hospital Association says, "This initiative illustrates what one hospital can not do by itself, many together can. Some are going to lead in research and innovation. Others will do as soon as they are tested and proven."

The healthcare leaders believe their efforts could save the state's hospitals as much as \$40 million a year and reduce the length of stay of South Carolina patients by up to 24,000 days.

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