The Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) Lantern Award is a recognition award given to emergency departments that exemplify exceptional practice and innovative performance in the core areas of leadership, practice, education, advocacy, and research. As an avenue to demonstrate an emergency department’s accomplishments in incorporating evidence-based practice and innovation into emergency care, this award is a visible symbol of an emergency department’s commitment to quality and safety and presence of a healthy work environment.

The ENA Lantern Award application includes questions that focus on:
- Innovative practices and noteworthy attributes of your emergency department
- Collaborative approaches to delivering optimal care for patients
- Performance and outcome metrics
- Characteristics of your nursing team
- Facility and emergency department demographics

The Lantern Award serves as a visible symbol to the consumer that excellence is valued, and that exceptional care is provided in your emergency department. Lantern Award recipients receive a physical award to display in their emergency department and recognition through ENA publications, ENA conferences, and the ENA website. In addition, award recipients are entitled to use an official Lantern Award seal in communications and advertising for the duration of the award period (e.g., email signatures, website, and advertisements).

The Lantern Award is open to all emergency departments who complete the application process and provide the required documentation as requested in the application. The award period is three years and recipients may re-apply at the end of their award period; however, the award is not guaranteed to previous recipients. The application form is available online from mid-November through the end of February. An application fee of $3,000 is due by mid-March following the submission deadline.

No site visit is required. Clarifications and additional information for reviewers may be sought by ENA staff via email from LanternAward@ena.org

For additional information about the ENA Lantern Award program, visit https://www.ena.org/about/awards-recognition/lantern