

**For Immediate Release**

November 28, 2011

**HALTON HEALTHCARE SERVICES RECEIVES PROVINCIAL AWARD**

**Milton, ON** - Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) has been awarded a *PLATINUM Quality Healthcare Workplace Award* by the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care – HealthForce Ontario. HHS was one of 34 hospitals that applied for the award this year and one of five who achieved the highest award available - platinum status. The Hospital was presented with the award at the Ontario Hospital Association’s annual HealthAchieve Conference held in Toronto on November 7th.

“Our staff, physicians and volunteers take pride in the exceptional care and support they provide to our patients and their families. We are honoured and thrilled to be recognized by the OHA,” said Karen Adams, HHS Vice President, People and Organizational Development. “This award recognizes the innovation, the tremendous leadership and the incredible teamwork at HHS over the past year to ensure our hospitals provide a great supportive workplace – one which promotes education, safety, and continuous quality improvement.”

This prestigious award recognized HHS’ efforts to improve the workplace in ways that contribute to employee and physician quality of work-life and the quality of the care and services they deliver. It was the second year the OHA Quality Healthcare Workplace Award was presented to HHS. Awards are available at four levels - Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. In 2010, HHS achieved a Gold Level Award.

The 2011 award submission highlighted many of the unique programs that have been implemented at the HHS Hospitals in Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville, including HHS’ annual Patient Safety Expos. HHS Patient Safety Expos provide staff with opportunities to showcase their exceptional work. Their efforts were recognized at an Awards Reception last Thursday, November 17, 2011, which featured keynote speaker, Katarina R. Busija. Ms. Busija spoke about her advocacy work with *Patients for Patient Safety Canada* – a Canadian Patient Safety Institute and WHO Patient Safety program that promotes transparency on patient safety issues. Award winners in several categories were announced, as well as the three Safety Champion Award winners who will be attending the Institute for Health Improvement’s 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Forum on Quality Improvement in Healthcare.

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To learn more about HHS and the Patient Safety Expo, log on to [www.haltonhealthcare.com](http://www.haltonhealthcare.com) to see an electronic version of the *Celebrations Booklet*, which contains information of all the safety expo display initiatives.

To learn more about the OHA's Quality Healthcare Workplace Awards, please log on to [www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com).

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The Halton Healthcare Services team accepts the Platinum Quality Healthcare Workplace Award at the Ontario Hospital Association's 2011 Health Achieve Conference.



Darlene Zeni, a Laboratory employee at Halton Healthcare Services looks at some the Patient Safety Expo winners display boards at this year's Awards Reception held at RattleSnake Golf Point Club.

