



NEWS RELEASE

from Halton Healthcare Services

For Immediate Release
August 1, 2013

Halton Healthcare Services Receives Four Year Laboratory Accreditation Award

Halton Healthcare Services' (HHS) laboratory services have been awarded a four year Accreditation Certificate. All three hospital laboratories participated in the process and achieved conformance rates of more 98 per cent. The Laboratory Accreditation was performed by the Ontario Laboratory Accreditation (OLA) a division of the Quality Management Program – Laboratory Services (QMP-LS) provincial regulatory agency, which is operated by the Ontario Medical Association (OMA).

A six member accreditation team, comprised of laboratory professionals from across the Province spent five days at HHS visiting all three hospital laboratories. This mandatory assessment confirmed that HHS has an excellent Laboratory Quality Management System in place which has been consistently sustained and improved upon since the last OLA on-site assessment in 2010. Among the many positive verbal comments, HHS was commended for its quality laboratory service, very knowledgeable and experienced laboratory staff, “awesome” safety program and excellent working relationships with nursing, management and other clinical areas.

“We were delighted with our results. It is truly reflective of our program and we are extremely proud of this accomplishment. It provides our patients, families and the community at large with assurances that we are meeting national standards of quality in our laboratories,” noted Rosemary Prikosovich, HHS Director of Diagnostic Imaging and Laboratory Services.

“The team diligently sifted through our records, conducted numerous on-site observations of practices and interviewed our staff and clients regarding each hospital’s laboratory services,” explained Ms. Prikosovich. “They also examined our *Point of Care* testing practice - which is any test performed at the bedside by a nurse or physician - to ensure the process meets accreditation standards.”

Halton Healthcare Receives Four Year Accreditation Award

“Laboratory medicine is a diagnostic service that supports all areas of the hospital and forms the basis of over 85 per cent of all medical decisions. Confidence in our lab results enables our healthcare professionals to make more informed decisions and, therefore, ultimately translates into better patient care,” noted Dr. Jennifer Walsh, HHS Clinical Laboratory Director.

“Laboratory Accreditation involved a very thorough and detailed inspection and review of our three hospital sites,” said Lilian Scime, Vice President, HHS Corporate Services and Diagnostics. “The final report was excellent. The impressive results we achieved across HHS are a credit to our Laboratory staff and physicians.”

QMP–LS is operated by the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), serving as an agent of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to carry out a quality management program for licensed medical laboratories in Ontario and set the standards for the Ontario Laboratory Accreditation process.

Halton Healthcare Services is a multi-site healthcare organization that operates three community hospitals which include Georgetown Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, serving over 300,000 residents. For more information on Halton Healthcare Services and our laboratory services, visit www.haltonhealthcare.com.

-30-

Media Contact:

Zita Taksas-Raponi
Public Relations Officer
Halton Healthcare Services
905-845-2571, 6774