



Halton Healthcare

NEWS RELEASE

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Halton Healthcare Services First Canadian Hospital To Be Awarded NICHE "Exemplar" Status

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) is the first Canadian hospital to be awarded "Exemplar" status for its NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) program. NICHE is an international program designed to help hospitals improve the care of older adults. The "Exemplar" status recognizes HHS' ongoing, high-level commitment to providing exceptional geriatric care throughout its three community hospitals.

The "Exemplar" status is the highest of four possible program levels and was awarded to HHS following a rigorous self-evaluation of its NICHE program. These requirements include implementation of the NICHE Geriatric Resource Nurse (GRN) Model as well as evidence-based protocols and systemic age-sensitive policies; the inclusion of patient, families and community-based providers in planning and implementation of NICHE initiatives; and assuming regional and national leadership roles.

"The "Exemplar" status reflects our commitment to providing patient-centred care for older adults and our journey in developing and growing a robust NICHE Program," says Kim Kohlberger, HHS Rehabilitation & Geriatrics Program Director. "Through our participation, we have developed evidence-based, interdisciplinary approaches that promote better outcomes, positive experiences, and improved care for the older adults in our hospitals. This leads to greater satisfaction for our patients, their families and our staff."

"We were the first community hospital in Ontario to be designated as a NICHE hospital in 2009," continues Ms. Kohlberger. "Since then, we established our Safer Elder Care Steering Committee and under the leadership of our HHS NICHE Program Coordinator, Nurse Practitioner Colleen Silver, we successfully developed a strong network of Elder Care Mentors and Champions among our healthcare providers. We have also implemented a wide range of clinical assessment tools and management protocols, and hard-wired best practices into our culture of care to successfully address inter-related geriatric issues such as delirium, safe mobility, and falls."

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HHS Achieves NICHE Exemplar Status

"We are honoured to receive the exemplary designation," notes Sylvia Rodgers, HHS Chief Nursing Officer & Professional Practice Leader. "It recognizes our ongoing commitment to achieving excellence with our Safer Elder Care Initiative by establishing a culture of care that is sensitive to the needs of this population."

"Halton Healthcare Services' evaluation demonstrated a tremendous ability to meet the needs of the older adult patient," says Liz Capezuti, PhD, RN, FAAN, Director, Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders, (NICHE), who is also the Dr. John W. Rowe, Professor in Successful Aging, New York University College of Nursing. "The hospital's high intensity level in marshalling geriatric nursing resources and support to enhance care marks it as a leader in the field."

About NICHE

NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) is an international program designed to help hospitals improve the care of older adults. Its mission is to provide principles and tools to help healthcare facilities achieve exemplary patient-centred care for older adults. Based at New York University College of Nursing, the NICHE Program can be found in over 500 hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout North America.

About HHS' Safer Elder Care Program

Safer Elder Care is an award winning initiative that recognizes the unique needs of older adults and provides a culture of care that is sensitive to the needs of this population. Started in 2009 at HHS, it addresses common inter-related geriatric issues such as delirium prevention and management, safe mobility, least restraint, falls prevention, skin care and the prevention of catheter associated urinary tract infections. Safer Elder Care was designated as a Leading Practice by Accreditation Canada in 2010.

About Halton Healthcare Services

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, and serves over 300,000 residents. For more information on Halton Healthcare Services and our laboratory services, visit www.haltonhealthcare.com.

For more information visit www.nicheprogram.org, or www.haltonhealthcare.com

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