



## Hamilton Health Sciences

### NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 21, 2012

#### **Hamilton Health Sciences becomes one of first hospitals in the country to receive Accreditation Canada's new Exemplary Standing**

Hamilton Health Sciences has received *Accreditation with Exemplary Standing* from Accreditation Canada. This is the highest ranking now conferred by Accreditation Canada under a new rating system it instituted on January 1, 2012.

Accreditation Canada is a not-for-profit organization that accredits health organizations in Canada and around the world. For 53 years, it has used evidence-based standards and a rigorous peer review process to foster ongoing quality improvement with a strong focus on patient safety.

“We are proud of this ranking and what it says about the commitment of our staff and physicians to improving the standard of care we deliver,” says Murray Martin, President and CEO of Hamilton Health Sciences. “The accreditation process is an important tool that we use to measure our performance compared to other hospitals, and it’s great to see that we rank amongst the best in Canada.”

Accreditation Canada reviewers visited Hamilton Health Sciences last June. They found that Hamilton Health Sciences met 2,489 out of 2,543 criteria across 20 sets of standards – *an achievement rate of 98 per cent*. Six months later, after more review and adjustment, HHS raised that achievement rate to 99 per cent. (Each set of standards contains dozens of standards and criteria.)

Accreditation Canada has also recognized *10 Leading Practices* at Hamilton Health Sciences as noteworthy examples of innovative, cost-effective contributions to quality care. To have such a large number of practices recognized is rare.

Some examples of those Leading Practices are: an Integrated Clinical and Organizational Ethics Service – an on-call team of specially-trained health professionals who help patients, families and staff work through difficult, ethical issues; Right from the Start – a program connecting parents of babies and toddlers who have special needs with the most appropriate supports; and,

an Integrated Model of Stroke Care – practices and processes that provide continuity of care for stroke patients from diagnosis through to rehabilitation.

Previously, Accreditation Canada ranked hospitals as: Accreditation; Accreditation with Condition; or Non-Accreditation. The new decision levels are: Accreditation with Exemplary Standing; Accreditation with Commendation; Accredited; or Not Accredited.

Accreditation Canada says the new levels are more precise, more accurately reflect degrees of success, and better represent the commitment of organizations to ongoing quality improvement.

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