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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

***Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA)***

***Achieves Accreditation with Exemplary Standing***

**(Strathroy, ON) –** For the first time, MHA has achieved honours from Accreditation Canada with an award of Accreditation with Exemplary Status - the highest rating a Canadian healthcare provider can receive.

Accreditation Canada is an independent, not-for-profit organization that sets standards for quality and safety in health care and accredits health organizations in Canada and around the world. The rigorous process requires documented and operational evidence of compliance with over 2000 internationally recognized Standards and Required Organizational Practices (ROPS), and examines eight dimensions of quality. These include: client centred services (putting patients and families first), continuity of services, accessibility, safety, effectiveness, efficiency, work life, and population focus. MHA was evaluated on 1,692 Standards and achieved a compliance rate of 98.7%. In addition, MHA met all 36 ROP’s (Required Organizational Practices) which are critical practices an organization must have in place to enhance client safety and minimize risk. Hospital accreditation, through Accreditation Canada, is a voluntary exercise that reviews hospitals care and services. It includes an intensive and rigorous self-assessment and a survey visit with a team.

MHA hosted an Accreditation Canada review team for five days in October. The two person review team conducted an extensive evaluation, including meetings with the board of directors, staff, physicians and volunteers from across the hospital as well as interviewing patients, families and community healthcare partners to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of the organization and its programs and services.

“The award of Exemplary Standing reflects the excellence and dedication of our board, staff, physicians and volunteers,” said Todd Stepanuik, President and CEO. “I would like to applaud everyone at MHA for their commitment and effort to achieve this wonderful accomplishment. It is a privilege to be part of this amazing organization. This level of award is solid evidence to our community of the strong, unwavering commitment and passion for excellence that our people show each and every day,” Stepanuik said. “We have an incredible team and this award is a credit to their hard work, dedication and commitment to quality and patient safety. Receiving this award is recognition that MHA is amongst the best hospitals in Canada in delivering patient centered care”.

“The Accreditation process is certainly not a one person job.  The commitment from MHA Administration, Management, Physicians, Front-line staff and Volunteers was evident and appreciated throughout the preparation stage and during our on-site visit.  There is a sense of pride and accomplishment about the care we provide that was reinforced when we received our Accreditation Decision of ‘Accreditation with Exemplary Status’,” stated Laurie McGill, Accreditation Coordinator for MHA.

Board Chair, Ken Williams stated, “The Board of Directors is ecstatic with the results of the accreditation survey. As a board, we commend the entire MHA family for the inspiring results which are a testament to the level of commitment to the mission at MHA. This was indeed a thorough evaluation and both surveyors commented on the high quality of our service and the obvious commitment and passion of every single person that they talked to. We have an incredible team providing great service to our communities.  To everyone involved thank you and congratulations.”

MHA’s next Accreditation is scheduled for 2017.

**About MHA:**

The Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) is comprised of two fully-accredited partner sites: Four Counties Health Services and Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital.

A progressive, team-oriented and technologically adept organization of excellence, the MHA is creating a more integrated and seamless approach to treatment by embracing and seeking out partnerships, through collaboration and investing in people. This coordinated approach helps to ensure that a high level of service is provided while reducing costs and continually enhancing quality.

Providing core acute primary and secondary hospital care, the MHA has also been recognized for establishing two notable Centres of Achievement (Orthopaedics and Diabetes Education Centre) that generate local and regional referrals.

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