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## MEDIA RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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### ***Middlesex Hospital Alliance receives full accreditation***

After a lengthy process, the Middlesex Hospital Alliance (MHA) has received full accreditation from Accreditation Canada. MHA includes both the Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital and Four Counties Health Services in Newbury.

The accreditation process is an external review process to assess and improve health care services provided to patients and clients. Monitored through Accreditation Canada, hospitals voluntarily participate in the program to help ensure they are providing acceptable standards of care.

Beginning in the fall of 2009, under the leadership of accreditation coordinator Laurie McGill, MHA began to prepare for an onsite visit scheduled for last October. The MHA was evaluated on 1285 standards, of which 1217 (97 per cent) were met; 46 were unmet, and 22 were not applicable. The surveyors indicated they had never surveyed a hospital facility with so few unmet standards.

A conditional report was received last November, which indicated there were some areas that needed improvement. These issues were addressed by mid-March. Full accreditation was received on April 7.

MHA CEO Mike Mazza was delighted. "It's hard to express how happy the team is," said Mazza. "It is very gratifying to know we are meeting or exceeding the industry standards."

Hospital teams participating in the review included: Ambulatory Care, Diagnostic Imaging Services, Effective Organization, Emergency Department Services, Infection Prevention & Control, Managing medications, medicine services, obstetrics/prenatal services, surgical services, operating room and medical reprocessing.

Two surveyors toured the facility and met with staff (both front line and management), board members, community partners and physicians, to determine how well the hospitals met the standards.

According to McGill, the process is ongoing and the hospital staff is already beginning to prepare for the 2013 review. "The key to maintaining the momentum is to regularly monitor the standards to ensure we are continuing to provide high quality care to our patients," said McGill. "And that's what it's all about, providing appropriate quality health care for the community." -30 -