

News Release

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Bluewater Health Earns Highest Accreditation Standing *Scores 99.6 to Achieve 'Exemplary' Designation*

SARNIA & PETROLIA – May 8, 2019 – Accreditation Canada, the organization that sets standards for quality and safety in healthcare and accredits healthcare organizations in Canada and around the world, has deemed Bluewater Health 'Accredited with Exemplary Standing' for 2019 to 2023. Bluewater Health met or exceeded 2,421 national quality standards, and all of its 30 Required Organizational Practices, to achieve a score of 99.6 per cent – the highest in its history.

President and CEO Mike Lapaine said, "We take part in accreditation to learn what we do well, and where we might have opportunities to improve. The findings of the Accreditation Canada on-site survey team are validation of the progress we've made in our quality improvement journey. We're so proud of their recognition of Bluewater Health's commitment to patient safety and evidence-based care. With this result, our patients, families and community can rest assured that our programs and processes meet national standards of excellence, and our committed, dedicated staff, Professional Staff and volunteers are invested in enhancing the care experience."

During a five-day visit in April, an accreditation survey team reviewed and evaluated Bluewater Health's programs and services through dialogue with staff, physicians, volunteers, patients and families, as well as with focus groups representing leadership, governance, patient experience and community partners. Information was gathered on topics such as work life, safety, infection prevention and control, medication management and communication.

In their time spent touring the hospitals in Petrolia and Sarnia, and speaking with patients and staff, the survey team saw a focus on quality, patient safety, performance, accountability and patient involvement. They continually noted the daily efforts towards safe, quality patient care among Bluewater Health's engaged, dedicated, compassionate healthcare professionals. In addition, the survey team noted that as an organization, Bluewater Health has made great progress in all programs since its last accreditation, with several key successes and leading practices underway.

The hospital was recognized for:

- Being quality-driven in policies, processes and practices
- Engaging patients and families in their care and in a range of organizational activities
- Making investments in patient safety
- Highly engaged staff and collegial teams that collaborate across all levels of the organization
- Good governance practices and strong leadership
- Offering continuing education and professional development opportunities
- Progress in all programs since the last accreditation on-site survey
- A well-established ethical framework and accessible ethical consultations

Above all, Bluewater Health is seen as a leaderful, high-performing organization committed to the community it serves.

Board Chair Paul Wiersma proudly acknowledged the intensive work of staff, Professional Staff and volunteers in preparing for the accreditation process. “In healthcare, quality and safety are paramount. From the bedside to the boardroom, each individual’s contribution helps us deliver on our Mission: *We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time.* I would like to recognize our dedicated team of staff, physicians and volunteers for providing safe and compassionate care to our patients and their families.”

Bluewater Health, with locations in Sarnia and Petrolia, cares for the residents of Sarnia-Lambton. With close to 2,500 staff, Professional Staff and volunteers, Bluewater Health provides an array of specialized acute, complex continuing care, allied health and ambulatory care services. Bluewater Health’s Mission is: *We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time.* For more information about Bluewater Health, visit www.bluewaterhealth.ca or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

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