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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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

***Achieves Accreditation with Exemplary Standing***

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

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. Accreditation Canada is an independent, not for profit organization that sets standards for quality and safety in healthcare organizations across the world.

Our Accreditation Canada surveyors, Anna Bottiglia and Lynne Mansell conducted a thorough review of SMGH and FCHS during a five day onsite visit from October 2 - 5. The MHA was evaluated on over 2000 standards across 14 standard sets and achieved in excess of a **99% success rate**.  This is indeed a testament to the never ending focus by all to exceptional care for which that the entire MHA family should be very proud of.

Members of our MHA family including managers, front-line staff, physicians, board members, community partners and patients were interviewed throughout the Clinical and Administrative Tracers and all were complemented on their level of commitment to the organization and their focus on quality and safety.

Receiving this award is recognition that MHA is amongst the best hospitals in Canada in delivering patient centred care,” said Todd Stepanuik, President and CEO. “Our people exhibit an unwavering commitment and passion for excellence that is evident each and every day,” Stepanuik said. “This is a remarkable achievement for our organization. We have an incredible team and this award is a credit to their tremendous efforts, dedication and commitment to quality and patient safety.”

“The Accreditation process requires commitment from MHA Administration, Management, Physicians, Front-line Staff and Volunteers. This commitment was evident throughout the entire accreditation process from preparations to onsite visit of the surveyors.  This Commitment was reinforced when we received ‘Accreditation with Exemplary Status’,” stated Laurie McGill, Accreditation Coordinator for MHA.

Board Chair, Neil MacLean stated, “As a Board, we commend the entire MHA family for the inspiring results which are a testament to the level of commitment of Management, Staff, Physicians and Volunteers to the mission at MHA. As noted by the surveyors – a patient and family centred care culture is evident throughout MHA.  To everyone involved thank you and congratulations.”

MHA’s next Accreditation is scheduled for 2021.

**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.

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