

SENIORS LIVING

Halton Healthcare Services awarded NICHE 'Exemplar' status for elder care

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) has been awarded the "Exemplar" status for its NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) program for the second consecutive year.

NICHE is an international program designed to help hospitals improve the care of older adults. The "Exemplar" status recognizes HHS' ongoing, high-level commitment to providing exceptional geriatric care throughout its three community hospitals. Halton Healthcare Services (Georgetown Hospital, Milton Hospital and Oakville-Trafalgar Hospital) is one of only two healthcare facilities with this Exemplar status in Canada.

"We were the first community hospital in Ontario to be designated as a NICHE hospital in 2009," says Kim Kohlberger, HHS Program Director, Rehabilitation & Geriatrics. "Since then, we established our Safer Elder Care Steering Committee and with the leadership of our HHS NICHE Program

Coordinator, Colleen Silver, Nurse Practitioner, successfully developed a strong network of Elder Care Mentors and Champions among our healthcare providers."

Halton Healthcare Services has also implemented a wide range of clinical assessment tools, management protocols, and best practices into its culture of care to successfully address inter-related geriatric issues such as delirium, safe mobility, and falls. The NICHE Program has resulted in better outcomes and greater satisfaction for HHS patients and their families.

"Exemplar status, the highest of four possible program levels, recognizes your facility's ongoing, high-level dedication to geriatric care," said Barbara Bricoli, NICHE Executive Director and Linda Bub, NICHE Director, Education and Program Development, in their congratulatory letter. "The Exemplar level was achieved because your facility demonstrates that its goals align



Sylvia Rodgers, HHS Interim Senior Vice President, Clinical Programs & Chief Nursing Officer (centre left) and Kim Kohlberger, HHS Program Director, Rehabilitation & Geriatrics (centre right) hold NICHE Exemplar Certificate surrounded by members of the HHS Safer Elder Care Team.

with the dimensions we use to gauge excellence specifically in the areas of organizational structure, leadership and geriatric competence. The NICHE designation and the "Exemplar" status signal your organization's resolve to provide outstanding patient-centred care for older adults."

"We were honoured to receive the Exemplar designation last year and we are absolutely thrilled to receive it again this year," said Sylvia Rodgers, HHS

Interim Senior Vice President Clinical Programs, Chief Nursing Officer & Professional Practice Leader. "This designation recognizes our ongoing commitment to achieving excellence with our Safer Elder Care Initiative by establishing a culture of care that is sensitive to the needs of this population. It reflects the dedication of our Elder Care Mentors, Champions and frontline healthcare providers."

Halton Healthcare Services' Safer

Elder Care recognizes the unique needs of older adults and provides a culture of care that is sensitive to the needs of this population. Started in 2009 at HHS, it addresses common inter-related geriatric issues such as delirium prevention and management, safe mobility, least restraint, falls prevention, skin care and the prevention of catheter associated urinary tract infections. Safer Elder Care was designated as a Leading Practice by Accreditation Canada in 2010.

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