

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BMH Laboratory Receives Highly Prestigious Honor – CAP Accreditation

Of 200,000 Labs in the U.S. to be CAP Accredited, BMH is only of only 5,000

By Karlie Belle Price. 9/21/2012

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After a two-day assessment and evaluation, the Boone Memorial Hospital Laboratory is happy to announce its CAP Accredited. Of the more than 200,000 Laboratories in the United States only 5,000 reach this prestigious status and BMH is now the only Critical Access Hospital in the area to reach this exemplary level.

So what does it mean to be CAP Accredited? The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program (College of American Pathology) meets the needs of a variety of laboratory settings from complex university medical centers to physician office laboratories. The program also covers a complete array of disciplines and testing procedures. Because of its comprehensive nature, CAP accreditation can help achieve a consistently high level of service throughout an institution or healthcare system.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has granted the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program deeming authority. It is also recognized by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), and can be used to meet many state certification requirements. The CAP also provides laboratory accreditation to forensic urine drug testing and reproductive laboratories, co-sponsored with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM).

“The Joint Commission (JC) is an accrediting entity, which follows Medicare's Quality Standards to ensure that patients receive safe, quality care. If you are an accredited facility, that means that JC puts their stamp of approval on your facility. There are other accrediting bodies but JC is by far the most popular,” said Teresa Meade, Chief Clinical Officer/Executive Director of Support Services at Boone Memorial Hospital.

So what does BMH & the community gain by being CAP Accredited?

Comprehensive Evaluations

All test results need to be accurate-every time-no matter where they are performed. The CAP accommodates all different types of labs so that hospitals such as BMH can maintain a consistently high level of service across its entire organization

Expert Inspection Teams

The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program is the only one of its kind that utilizes multi-disciplinary teams of practicing lab professionals as inspectors. Because they deal with lab issues on a daily basis, these inspectors are uniquely qualified to provide hospitals with a thorough inspection that is specific for each section of the lab.

Compliance with Regulations

The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program helps organizations meet and exceed requirements of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as well as those of other national and state regulatory bodies.

Unparalleled Educational Opportunities

Lab professionals are involved on both sides of the inspection process, so there is always a healthy exchange of ideas and discussion of the latest lab techniques that goes beyond regulatory requirements. There is something valuable to take away from every inspection.

Useful Inspection Tools

The inspection Checklists constantly evolve to reflect current practices and technologies and therefore serve as living documents on good laboratory practice. Adhering to the Checklists provides assurance that a lab is doing all it can to produce the highest quality test results.

Recognition as a Top Performer

Over 83% of the top major teaching and large community hospitals choose the CAP as their accrediting agency. By achieving the highest standards in the industry a laboratory not only gains the confidence and trust of its community but also distinguishes itself as a leader that is committed to quality patient care.

“Basically it’s advantageous for BMH to be CAP Accredited because we are held to the highest standard of quality, which means our patients receive excellent care,” said BMH Laboratory Director, Debbie Randant.

Randant explained that it is an unannounced inspection. *“We have no idea when they are coming so we have to be ready at all times. The inspector was here for two days. He inspected every aspect of our laboratory from specimen collection to all phases of testing and reporting of results, blood transfusions and more. He looked through our policies and procedures and two years of records.”*

The inspector concluded that the Boone Memorial Hospital Laboratory was ‘fantastic.’ He went on to tell us that it was evident that the patients come first at BMH and the laboratory staff is very well-trained, paying attention to every detail.

“It is a comfort knowing that Boone Memorial Hospital is meeting such high level of patient care standards and can compete with even the largest hospitals in the country. Our laboratory has been CAP Accredited almost 3 decades, receiving our first accreditation in 1984,” said Tommy Mullins, BMH Administrator. *“Normally we are inspected by other hospitals during the CAP Accreditation but this year a Senior Inspector actually came. This proves that when patients come to the BMH Laboratory that they are receiving top notch care. The community truly has an excellent laboratory and I couldn’t be more proud of the staff,”* concluded Mullins.

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