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NEWS RELEASE

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Nashville VA intensive care unit earns award

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) Nashville medical center’s medical intensive care unit (MICU) has earned a silver Beacon Award for Excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

The Beacon Award for Excellence recognizes unit caregivers who successfully improve patient outcomes and align practices with AACN’s six Healthy Work Environment Standards. Units that achieve this three-year, three-level award with a gold, silver or bronze designation meet national criteria consistent with Magnet Recognition, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and the National Quality Healthcare Award.

“The Beacon Award is a journey toward excellence and cannot happen overnight, it is truly a journey,” said Linda Ruzzo, Nurse Manager.

“This award was made possible by a strong leadership team who placed ownership of evidenced-based practice into the hands of nurses to engage them in their own unit,” she said.

AACN President Christine Schulman applauds the commitment of the caregivers at the TVHS Nashville MICU for working together to meet and exceed the high standards set forth by the Beacon Award for Excellence. The TVHS Nashville MICU team joins other dedicated healthcare professionals in an exceptional community of nurses who set the standard for optimal patient care.

“The Beacon Award for Excellence recognizes caregivers in stellar units whose consistent and systematic approach to evidence-based care optimizes patient outcomes,” said Schulman.

“Units that receive this national recognition serve as role models to others on their journey to excellent patient and family care,” she said.

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The silver-level Beacon Award for Excellence earned by the TVHS MICU signifies an effective approach to policies, procedures and processes that includes engagement of staff and key stakeholders. The unit has evaluation and improvement strategies in place and good performance measures when compared to relevant benchmarks. The TVHS MICU earned its silver award by meeting the following evidence-based Beacon Award for Excellence criteria:

- Leadership Structures and Systems
- Appropriate Staffing and Staff Engagement
- Effective Communication, Knowledge Management and Learning and Development
- Evidence-Based Practice and Processes
- Outcome Measurement

The other Beacon Award designations are gold and bronze. Gold-level awardees demonstrate an effective and systematic approach to policies, procedures and processes that includes engagement of staff and key stakeholders; fact-based evaluation strategies for continuous process improvement; and performance measures that meet or exceed relevant benchmarks. Recipients who earn a bronze-level award are beginning the journey to excellence, which includes developing systematic policies, processes and procedures; identifying opportunities for staff participation; and recognizing the need to develop cycles of evaluation and improvement.

TVHS is an integrated tertiary health care system comprised of two hospitals, the Alvin C. York Campus in Murfreesboro and the Nashville Campus, as well as more than a dozen community-based outpatient clinics located in Tennessee and Kentucky. TVHS provides ambulatory care, primary care, and secondary care in acute medicine and surgery, specialized tertiary care, transplant services, spinal cord injury outpatient care, and a full range of extended care and mental health services.

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