

For Immediate Release:
April 20, 2009

York Central Hospital Receives Outstanding Laboratory Accreditation Results!

RICHMOND HILL, ON. – According to the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science, up to 85% of decisions about diagnosis and treatment of patients are based on laboratory test results. Both you and your doctor depend upon the accuracy of these results.

York Central Hospital is pleased to announce during this **National Medical Laboratory Week (April 19-25)**, that the hospital received **outstanding results** during its recent Accreditation with the Ontario Laboratory Accreditation (OLA). OLA is part of the Quality Management Program–Laboratory Services (QMP–LS) which is operated by the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), serving as an agent of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) to carry out a quality management program for licensed medical laboratories in Ontario.

Medical laboratory professionals collect and provide vital information about the health of our patients. In the 2007/2008 year, more than 1,600,000 laboratory procedures were completed at York Central Hospital to diagnose and monitor the hospital's patients.

In 2004, York Central Hospital was one of the first laboratories in Ontario to participate in the process of Laboratory Accreditation. In April 2009, the laboratory's second accreditation review was conducted by a five assessors over the course of three full days. A total of 491 standards were assessed and a conformance rate of 93.7% was achieved.

"We are thrilled with our results," says, Clare Johnson, the hospital's Operations Director for Diagnostic and Support Services. "We have always been very proud of our laboratory as well as the staff and physicians who work here. Accreditation is very important to us and shows our commitment to providing the best possible service to the hospital and the patients we see."

Dr. Larry Grossman, the hospital's Chief of Staff comments that "Physicians and their patients depend on the accuracy and speed in which test results are delivered. The results of our accreditation show our health care team and the community at large that our lab is committed to providing the best possible care in a timely and efficient manner. We are very proud of our lab and the excellent customer service they provide for our patients."

-30-

York Central Hospital is a large, full-service community hospital with over 69,000 visits annually to its Emergency Department, serving a population of more than 400,000 in Southwest York Region and beyond. Located in one of Canada's fastest growing communities, the hospital is on a Capacity Building Journey that focuses on using the best available practices, the newest technologies and innovative models of service to provide superior patient care. With a compliment of 469 beds, the hospital is home to the District Stroke Centre, York Regional Chronic Kidney Disease Program, and

York Region Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Care Centre. For more information visit us at:
www.yorkcentral.on.ca

Media Contact:

Stefanie Kreibe,
External Relations Officer, Public Affairs
York Central Hospital
Tel. (905) 883-1212 ext. 7484
skreibe@yorkcentral.on.ca

Backgrounder

What is Accreditation?

The Accreditation process helps to ensure that the laboratory is competent to carry out examinations to the highest standards to aid in diagnosis, disease prevention and treatment of patients. The quality of laboratory services impacts directly on the quality of patient care; high quality laboratory results enable quality patient care decisions.

In Ontario, all licensed medical laboratories are required to meet accreditation requirements as a condition of licensure. OLA is a mandatory peer review assessment process that ensures that laboratories across the province operate at the highest standards possible and that patients receive the best possible testing environment as well as results.

Accreditation assessment teams consist of a team leader, an OLA staff technologist, and additional assessors as dictated by the size and scope of the laboratory. Teams are balanced to include physicians, scientists and medical laboratory technologists and to provide expert technical coverage for all disciplines involved. Teams include peers with the knowledge of laboratory operations and quality assurance practices, and who possess management skills and specialty technical expertise.

April 19-25 is National Medical Laboratory Week. For more information see:
www.csmls.org/english/nml-week

Did you know?

Did you know that chewing a piece of gum can interfere with certain blood tests? Medications, alcohol, nicotine, caffeine, certain foods and exercise can affect your laboratory test results. Check with your doctor or medical laboratory professional for instructions before your next lab test.

- More than 70 percent of a person's medical file is comprised of medical laboratory test results.
- Up to 85 percent of physicians' decisions about diagnosis and treatment are based on laboratory test results.
- The College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario works together with the Laboratory Services Branch of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Quality Management Program - Laboratory Services (QMP-LS) to develop and monitor best practice standards.