

Stormont-Vail HealthCare

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For Immediate Release

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Stormont-Vail HealthCare Earns AABB Accreditation

(Topeka, Dec. 8, 2009) – Stormont-Vail HealthCare has been granted AABB accreditation for transfusion services, according to Diane Burton, Director, Clinical Laboratories and Anatomic Pathology.

Accreditation follows an intensive on-site assessment by specially trained AABB assessors and establishes that the level of technical and administrative performance within the facility meets or exceeds the standards meet by AABB. By successfully meeting those requirements, Stormont-Vail HealthCare joins similar facilities located throughout the United States and around the world that also have earned AABB Accreditation.

“The AABB’s accreditation procedures are voluntary,” Burton explained. “Stormont-Vail HealthCare has sought AABB accreditation because this program assists facilities around the world in achieving excellence by promoting a level of professional and technical expertise that contributes to quality performance and patient safety.”

AABB’s Accreditation Program contributes to the quality and safety of collecting, processing, testing, distributing and administering blood and cellular therapy products. The Accreditation Program assesses the quality and operational systems in place within a facility. The basis for assessment is compliance with AABB standards, Code of Federal Regulations and other federal guidance documents.

The AABB Accreditation Program had been recognized by the International Society of Quality in Healthcare (ISQus). In June 1995, AABB was granted “deemed status” as an accrediting organization under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA’88) program. This granting of “deemed status” indicates that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has found the AABB accreditation process to provide reasonable assurance that the facilities accredited by it meet or exceed the conditions required by federal law and regulations.

AABB grants accreditation for:

- Donor Centers – Collection, Processing, Testing, and Distribution
- Transfusion Services – Testing (Pretransfusion, Compatibility), Blood Administration
- Cellular Therapy (Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells, Cord Blood, Somatic Cells)
- Immunohematology Reference Laboratories
- Perioperative Services
- Relationship/Parentage Testing

About AABB

Established in 1947, AABB (formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks) is an international, not-for-profit association dedicated to the advancement of science and the practice of transfusion medicine and related biological therapies. The association is committed to improving health by developing and delivering standards, accreditation and educational programs and services to optimize patient and donor care and safety.

Stormont-Vail HealthCare is an integrated health care system serving a 13-county area in northeast Kansas. Stormont-Vail HealthCare was formed with the merger of Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center and Cotton-O'Neil Clinic in 1995. PediatricCare joined the system in 1996. Cotton-O'Neil Clinic consists of more than 195 primary care and specialty physicians working together to provide exceptional care throughout the region.

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