



CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SYSTEM

Immediate Release

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Christiana Care Health System's Helen F. Graham Cancer Center Earns Reaccreditation, Commendation

(WILMINGTON, Del. – July 9, 2013) The Helen F. Graham Cancer Center at [Christiana Care Health System](http://www.christianacare.org) has received a three-year reaccreditation with commendation from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons.

To earn voluntary accreditation, which Christiana Care has earned since 1951, a cancer program must meet or exceed 34 Commission on Cancer quality care standards, be evaluated every three years through a survey process and maintain levels of excellence in the delivery of comprehensive patient-centered care. Accreditation with commendation is only awarded to facilities that exceed standard requirements at the time of survey.

“Accreditation with commendation from the Commission on Cancer validates the dedication of our physicians and staff who provide exceptional care, serving our patients as expert, caring partners in their health,” said Nicholas J. Petrelli, M.D., Bank of America Endowed medical director for the Graham Cancer Center. “We are constantly striving to improve the care we give and deliver greater value. Our goal is to exceed the quality standards.”

The performance report for the Graham Cancer Center cites its “great engagement of the community [with a] a number of useful prevention and early detection programs.” One example has been the Graham Cancer Center’s partnership with other hospitals, the provider community and state agencies to eliminate the racial disparity in colon cancer between African Americans and whites in Delaware.

The Commission on Cancer also praises the Graham Cancer Center for “research accruals that exceed all expectations,” in reference to its patient enrollment rates in clinical trials, which are six times the national average.

The Graham Cancer Center is one of the most technologically advanced and largest cancer programs on the East Coast. Its world-class team of specialists provided care for more than 195,000 patient visits last year.

The Commission on Cancer is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving patient outcomes and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education and the monitoring of comprehensive, quality care. There are currently more

than 1,500 Commission on Cancer-accredited cancer programs in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, representing 30 percent of all hospitals.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/howeare.

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