



# GOOD SHEPHERD H O S P I C E

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Contact:**

Phoebe Ochman

Director of Corporate Communications

Chapters Health System

[ochmanp@chaptershealth.org](mailto:ochmanp@chaptershealth.org)

P: 813/871-8025; C: 813/532-7221

## **Good Shepherd Hospice Awarded Deemed Status Accreditation from The Joint Commission**

**Lakeland, FL (August 4, 2017):** Good Shepherd Hospice, an affiliate of Chapters Health System, announced today that it had earned The Joint Commission's deemed status accreditation by demonstrating continuous compliance with its performance standards. Deemed status is a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to providing safe and effective care.

"Good Shepherd Hospice underwent a rigorous on-site survey," said Pam Saucier, RN, BSN, MBA, Chief Compliance and Clinical Officer for Chapters Health. "During the four-day visit, compliance with hospice standards were evaluated including provision of care, treatment and services, emergency management, human resources, individual rights and responsibilities and leadership. In addition, the accreditation process provided us with education and guidance to assist staff in order to continually improve our hospice services."

Launched in 1999, The Joint Commission's deemed accreditation program supports the efforts of its accredited organizations to help deliver safe, high quality care and services. Deemed status indicated that the organization not only meets but exceeds expectations for a particular area of expertise. More than 1,400 hospice programs out of 4,000 in the United States currently maintain accreditation by The Joint Commission with approximately 1,000 receiving deemed status. In Florida, 17 hospices are accredited by The Joint Commission and nine received deemed status.

"When individuals bring in hospice, they want to be sure that the company is capable of offering safe, quality care," added Saucier. "Accreditation by The Joint Commission serves as a stamp of approval that the organization has demonstrated compliance that adheres to recognized standards of safety and quality care."

The Joint Commission's hospice standards are developed in consultation with healthcare experts, hospice providers and researchers, as well as industry experts, purchasers and consumers. The standards are informed by scientific literature and expert consensus to help organizations measure, assess and improve performance.

"We are pleased to receive the accreditation from The Joint Commission, the premier healthcare quality improvement and accrediting body in the nation," added Saucer. "Staff from across our organization continue to work together to strengthen the continuum of care and maintain the delivery of optimal hospice services for community members in Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties."

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### ***About Good Shepherd Hospice***

Good Shepherd Hospice, an affiliate of Chapters Health System, is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that supports about 4,000 patients each year in Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties as they face the challenges of advancing age and illness. Since 2008, the organization has been accredited by The Joint Commission, the nation's premier healthcare accrediting body. In 2015, Good Shepherd Hospice was named a Hospice Honors recipient by Deyta, an industry leader in data-driven management. In addition, Good Shepherd Hospice first received accreditation from the National Institute for Jewish Hospice in 2007, which means that the staff has undergone specialized training to better serve the needs of patients and their families across the entire range of faith traditions and observance within the Jewish religion. To learn more, visit [www.chaptershealth.org](http://www.chaptershealth.org), like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

### ***About The Joint Commission***

Founded in 1951, [The Joint Commission](#) seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 20,500 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including hospitals and health care organizations that provide ambulatory and office-based surgery, behavioral health, home care, laboratory and nursing home services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. The Joint Commission has two nonprofit affiliate organizations: [The Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare](#) aims to solve health care's most critical safety and quality problems and [Joint Commission Resources \(JCR\)](#) provides consulting services, educational services and publications. [Joint Commission International](#), a division of JCR, accredits and certifies international health care organizations. Learn more about The Joint Commission at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

### ***About Chapters Health System***

Founded in 1983 as a compassionate not-for-profit organization, Chapters Health System provides choices, education and guidance for those affected by advancing age or advancing illness through its managed affiliates: Good Shepherd Hospice, HPH Hospice, LifePath Hospice, and Chapters Health Palliative Care, located in Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Pasco and Polk counties. In addition, Chapters Health operates HPH Home Health, which serves the needs of patients in Pasco and Pinellas counties. Learn more at [chaptershealth.org](http://chaptershealth.org), like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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