

## Polk County health business

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### **Good Shepherd Hospice exceeds accreditation standards**

LAKELAND — Good Shepherd Hospice, an affiliate of Chapters Health System, has earned The Joint Commission’s deemed-status accreditation, indicating it not only meets but exceeds performance standards.

Among the 17 hospices that are accredited in Florida by The Joint Commission, nine received deemed status.

During a four-day on-site survey, The Joint Commission evaluated compliance with hospice standards including provision of care, treatment and services, emergency management, human resources, individual rights and responsibilities and leadership.

“When individuals bring in hospice, they want to be sure that the company is capable of offering safe, quality care,” Pam Saucier, a registered nurse who is the chief compliance and clinical Officer for Chapters Health, said in a news release.

“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 accreditation process also “provided us with education and guidance to assist staff in order to continually improve our hospice services,” Saucier said.

Good Shepherd Hospice is a community-based, not-for-profit organization that supports about 4,000 patients each year in Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties.

It was first accredited by The Joint Commission in 2008. 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 in the traditions and observance of the Jewish religion.