5-Star Quality of Care

VNA/BWH Earns Five-Star Rating from Medicare for Quality of Care; Among Top 3% in Nation

A five-star rating for quality of care for home health services has been awarded to Visiting Nurse Association and Blue Water Hospice by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Port Huron-based agency is one of only 10 home health care agencies in the state to receive a five-star rating.

Agencies are rated from one to five stars, with five being the highest possible score. No other home health care agency in St. Clair County received a five-star rating for quality of care in home health care.

Additionally, only just under three percent of home health care agencies in the country receive a five-star rating for quality of care, making VNA/BWH among the top three percent of home health care providers nationwide.

“I am extremely proud of our staff and the hard work they do caring for patients in our community,” said David McKay, president/CEO of VNA/BWH. “To be among the top three percent of home health care quality providers in the nation is a tremendous honor.”

Nationwide, more than 12,200 home health care agencies are registered with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. “Adding star ratings to Home Health Compare is another step forward in our continuing efforts to empower consumers by providing more information to help them make health care decisions while also encouraging providers to strive for higher levels of quality,” said Dr. Patrick Conway, acting principal deputy administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and deputy administrator for innovation and quality.
Staff Deserves Recognition For Various Accolades

It wasn’t my finest moment. This past spring, when cleaning the gutters at my home, I fell off a ladder.

I don’t recall what, exactly, went through my mind during the actual fall before I hit the pavement, but I’m sure a few lively words along with, “Oh boy…this is gonna hurt…” were probably among my random thoughts.

Boy was I right. It sure did hurt. After a combination of rest and keeping my arm in a sling, hobbling around with a walker and on crutches, and a good number of hours spent with a physical therapist, my shoulder and hip injuries are on the mend. And I know I’m fortunate; the outcome could have been a lot worse in many ways.

Additionally, thanks to the support I received from family, my injuries did not require the need for home health care, though even a slightly more severe set of injuries very well could have required that level of assistance.

But these injuries took me to the brink of that need and gave me a very close look at what many of our patients must go through.

Being sick or injured or incapacitated in any way is absolutely no fun. Needing to rely on other people for assistance with even the smallest of daily tasks is daunting.

That is why I am so proud of our staff at Visiting Nurse Association and Blue Water Hospice. Over the past several months, they have been recognized with a five star rating by The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the quality of home health care they provide. This rating places our agency among the top three percent of providers in the nation. That is a significant achievement.

Additionally, the staff also passed, with flying colors, a surprise inspection by the Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP). The quality of our patient care was praised in the accreditation report.

What does all of this mean to our agency and the community? To the agency, it means that we have done a good job of selecting compassionate, caring and qualified staff members who are exceptionally good at doing their jobs. To the community, this means that we are a valued and trusted healthcare provider that is not only willing to care for you or a loved one in a time of need, but when we do so, all involved will know they are receiving the very best care possible in the Blue Water Area.

I hope to never fall off a ladder again, but if I ever did, I would want the staff at Visiting Nurse Association and Blue Water Hospice caring for me. That is the biggest compliment I can provide to our staff. And every day, families across our community compliment them in the same way by inviting them into their homes.

And for that, we say thank you.

Rockin’ the Dock
Fundraiser Benefits Adult Day Care Program

A fund raiser aimed at raising awareness of the issues surrounding dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease was recently held at the Seaway Terminal Bean Dock in Port Huron.

Funds raised at the “Rockin’ the Dock” event will benefit the adult day care program at VNA/BWH.

The sock-hopped-themed “Rockin’ the Dock” featured “rockin’ around the clock” music of the 1950s and 1960s. The event featured a barbecue dinner catered by Chef Mike’s Catering and a cash bar catered by Andy Bakko from Wolverine Market. Dancing and music was provided by The Dynasty. Classic cars were on display and a live auction took place as a part of the fund raising. WSAQ radio host Chuck Santoni conducted the auction.

Many thanks are extended to the many individual and corporate sponsors of the event.
CHAP Accreditation Earned
Agency Earns Coveted “Deemed” Status

Visiting Nurse Association and Blue Water Hospice has received a “Deemed” accreditation from the Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP) following an unannounced visit in mid-September. CHAP is an independent, nonprofit, accrediting body for home and community-based healthcare organizations. CHAP audits policies, procedures, field visits, infection prevention, and other similar administrative and caregiving tasks.

The visits by CHAP are unannounced and it takes the organization several days to review all the needed information to determine what, if any, violations have occurred. Auditors accompanied a number of staff members on patient visits, observed at the Blue Water Hospice Home, and reviewed the policies and procedures of VNA/BWH operations.

VNA/BWH wishes to recognize the excellent work completed every single day by all staff members who consistently serve as excellent caregivers and ambassadors of the agency.

VNA/BWH Named Among Top 500
Agency Recognized Eight Times for Exceptional Quality of Care

Visiting Nurse Association & Blue Water Hospice was recently named a 2015 Top 500-in-the-Nation Home Care Elite Provider.

This prestigious award was presented by OCS HomeCare by National Research Corporation, the leading provider of home health metrics and analytics, and DecisionHealth, publisher of the most respected independent newsletter in the home care profession.

“Our agency has again been recognized by OCS as a top provider,” said David McKay, president and CEO of VNA/BWH. “It is a testament to the significantly high quality of care we provide our patients. I am very proud of our staff.”

Nationwide, almost 10,000 home care providers are evaluated each year. Only the top 25 percent are selected for recognition.

“The 2015 HomeCare Elite winners deserve credit for demonstrating high-quality care in their communities,” said Christine Lang of OCS HomeCare. “As quality care initiatives become top-of-mind for healthcare providers, we recognize this as a remarkable achievement and are pleased to acknowledge top-performing home health organizations.”

“This is a testament to the significantly high quality of care we provide our patients. I am very proud of our staff.”

David McKay
President & CEO
Members of local Girl Scout Troop 50302 recently adopted a garden at the Blue Water Hospice Home (BWHH) in Marysville and as a result are working toward earning their Silver Award, the second highest award in Girl Scouts.

The Girl Scout Troop completed the planting of a garden at BWHH. The BWHH is owned and operated by Visiting Nurse Association and Blue Water Hospice of Port Huron.

The scouting troop consists of seventh through ninth grade Cadette Girl Scouts who attend Port Huron High School, Port Huron Northern High School and Central Middle School in Port Huron. The troop is led by Wendy Cronce.

“I didn’t even realize there were gardens in the location that they refurbished,” said Jody Lincoln, director of Blue Water Hospice Home and Blue Water Hospice. “They have certainly made a positive impact on the outdoor living area available for our patients.”

Additionally, the scouts are providing garden tools and other items that will help others maintain the gardens in the future.

Creative Thinking

Painting With a Purpose raises funds

More than $800 was raised recently at a fundraiser conducted to benefit the charity care program at Visiting Nurse Association and Blue Water Hospice (VNA/BWH).

Both staff and community members participated in the “Painting with a Purpose” fundraiser held at Painting with a Twist in Fort Gratiot. Participants each created their own original painting. Once a month, Painting with a Twist donates 50 percent of the cost per seat to a charity that the participants have come to support.

The monies raised for the charity care program allow those in need of care who cannot afford it to receive that care from VNA/BWH at no cost or a reduced cost.