

Press Release

ATTENTION NEWS/ HEALTH EDITORS:

St. Joe's Receives the 2009 BD Diamond Safety Award

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TORONTO, September 1, 2009 – In recognition of our commitment to safety, St. Joe's has received the 2009 BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company) Diamond Safety Award. We are the only hospital in Canada to receive this prestigious award this year, which is a safety recognition award given to health care institutions for their commitment to providing a safer environment for staff and patients through the use of BD safety-engineered devices and programs.

As part of our strategy to Put Patients First, staff and patient safety is a priority at St. Joe's. As a recipient of this award, it speaks to the work we are able to do through our Safety, Quality and Performance Excellence Program, which allows us to enhance the safe, quality care we provide to our community, explains Kathy Millar, Vice President of Quality, Safety and Performance Excellence. "Our staff should be proud that their hard work and commitment to safety in caring for their patients has been recognized. Implementing and utilizing safety devices allows us to reduce harm to our staff, ensuring a safer working environment for them," Millar added.

Work towards the implementation of BD's Push Blood Collection Sets was the initiative that led St. Joe's to win the Diamond Award. The initiative was supported at the executive level and led by Cheryl Croutch, Manager of Occupational Health and Safety and Geetha Raghukumar, Product Standards Coordinator. "This is the new generation in blood collection technology," said Croutch. "This is a safe device that is used to collect blood specimen samples. The safety features of the Push Button Blood Collection set devices ensures that the needle is retracted directly from the patient's vein back into the syringe with the push of the button," explains Croutch. "This significantly reduces the risk of 'needle stick' injuries to our staff, therefore reducing their risk of contracting a communicable disease. It is easy for staff to use, they can remove the needle safely with one hand, tend to the patient's puncture site and dispose the needle."

The Safety, Quality and Performance Excellence Program encompasses a number of initiatives aimed at decreasing the risk of injury and infection for patients and staff. We also provide our community with information around our patient safety rates, through publically reporting on a number of patient safety indicators. Visit our website at www.stjoe.on.ca for additional information on Patient Safety at St. Joe's.

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Media Contact:

Michelle Tadique, Communications Associate, St. Joseph's Health Centre

(416) 530-6000 ext. 4663

tadiqm@stjoe.on.ca

St. Joseph's Health Centre, Toronto, is a full service acute care community teaching hospital in the Catholic tradition providing services in Southwest Toronto. With a vision to be Canada's Best Community Teaching Hospital, St. Joseph's is acknowledged for its commitment to community engagement and linkage that enables the delivery of outstanding quality and service to its diverse communities. The Health Centre's clinical programs include Women's, Children's & Family Health; Surgery and Oncology Services; Emergency, Critical Care and Access Services; Medicine, Ambulatory & Senior's Health; Mental Health & Addictions Services and Clinical Support Services.