

JOLIET HERALD NEWS

St. Joe's lab gets new nod

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From Submitted Reports

JOLIET -- Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center's laboratory has been awarded an accreditation by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists, based on the results of a recent on-site inspection.

The laboratory was advised of this national recognition and congratulated for the "excellence of services being provided."

Provena Saint Joseph Medical Center's lab is one of the more than 6,000 CAP-accredited laboratories nationwide.

"The lab is the area of the hospital where blood and tissue samples are tested and studied to determine whether illness or disease is present, so quality is absolutely critical in order to have accurate diagnoses," said Dr. Joseph Natarelli, medical director of laboratory and pathology.

"We renew our laboratory accreditation every two years. This accreditation demonstrates to our patients that they can count on us for highly reliable laboratory test results. Being CAP accredited also means that we not only meet federal requirements -- we exceed them."

Provena Saint Joseph's laboratory is staffed by 125 specially trained employees, including medical technologists, medical laboratory technicians, laboratory aides, transcriptionists, phlebotomists, a cytotechnologist and histology technologists.

Doctors Renuka Bhaskar, pathology; Rajyasree Emmadi, pathology; Samir Gupta, pathology; Joseph Natarelli, pathology; Shahnaz Saeed, pathology; and Peter Tomas, pathology, provide general oversight of the testing in the laboratory.

"The CAP accreditation really is significant when you consider the impact that laboratory test results have on each patient's life," said Shirley Koren, director of the laboratory.

"Doctors really do depend on this information, and it's so important that our results are timely, precise, and delivered with the very best customer service."

During the accreditation process, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures for the preceding two years.

CAP inspectors also examine the entire staff's qualifications, the laboratory's equipment, facilities, safety program and record, as well as the overall management of the laboratory.