



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Regina Hudson  
850) 494-4960

[regina.hudson@hcahealthcare.com](mailto:regina.hudson@hcahealthcare.com)

### **West Florida Healthcare Laboratory Earns AABB Accreditation**

August 1, 2016 (Pensacola, FL) – West Florida Healthcare has been granted AABB accreditation for Transfusion Services, according to Brian P. Baumgardner, President and CEO. Accreditation follows an intensive on-site assessment by specially-trained AABB assessors and establishes that the level of technical and administrative performance within the facility meets or exceeds the standards set by AABB. By successfully meeting those requirements, West Florida Healthcare joins similar facilities located throughout the United States and around the world that also have earned AABB Accreditation.

“The AABB’s Accreditation procedures are voluntary,” Baumgardner explained. “West Florida Healthcare has sought AABB Accreditation because this program assists facilities around the world in achieving excellence by promoting a level of professional and technical expertise that contributes to quality performance and patient safety.”

AABB’s Accreditation Program contributes to the quality and safety of collecting, processing, testing, distributing and administering blood and cellular therapy products. The Accreditation Program assesses the quality and operational systems in place within a facility. The basis for assessment is compliance with AABB standards, *Code of Federal Regulations* and other federal guidance documents.

The AABB Accreditation program has been recognized by the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua). In June 1995, AABB was granted “deemed status” as an accrediting organization under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA ’88) program. This granting of “deemed status” indicates that the Centers

(more)

for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has found the AABB accreditation process to provide reasonable assurance that the facilities accredited by it meet or exceed the conditions required by federal law and regulations.

AABB grants accreditation for:

- Donor Centers – Collection, Processing, Testing, and Distribution
- Transfusion Services – Testing (Pretransfusion, Compatibility), Blood Administration
- Cellular Therapy (Hematopoietic Progenitor Cells, Cord Blood, Somatic Cells)
- Immunohematology Reference Laboratories
- Perioperative Services
- Relationship/Parentage Testing
- Molecular Testing for Red Cell, Platelet, and Neutrophil Antigens

### **About AABB**

Established in 1947, AABB (formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks) is an international, not-for-profit association dedicated to the advancement of science and the practice of transfusion medicine and related biological therapies. The association is committed to improving health by developing and delivering standards, accreditation and educational programs and services to optimize patient and donor care and safety.

### **About West Florida Healthcare**

The first hospital in the area to offer all private rooms, West Florida Healthcare proudly provides market-leading quality outcomes performance. Named for the second year in a row as one of the “100 Top Hospitals” in the nation by Truven Health Analytics, the facility has also been recognized as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures for five years in a row by The Joint Commission, earned an “A” rating in patient safety from The Leapfrog Group, and named by *Becker’s Hospital Review* to its 2016 national list of “100 Great Community Hospitals.” The area’s first Accredited Chest Pain Center and Breast Imaging Center of Excellence, West Florida Hospital is also the first hospital in the state of Florida to have earned Atrial Fibrillation with Electrophysiology Services Accreditation. The hospital is also an Advanced Primary Stroke Center and offers specialized Emergency Department services tailored specifically to

(more)

the needs of seniors as well as a Kids' ER dedicated to serving the emergency medical needs of children. The West Florida Healthcare campus includes the all private room acute care hospital, the area's only comprehensive, CARF-accredited physical rehabilitation hospital, and a mental health facility. Affiliated with HCA, the nation's leading provider of healthcare, West Florida Healthcare meets the community's healthcare needs in major services such as cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, oncology, orthopedics, robotic-assisted surgery, critical care, neurology/neurosurgery, emergency care, urology, behavioral health, gastroenterology, obstetrics, pulmonary, and rehabilitative medicine. For more information, visit [www.westfloridahospital.com](http://www.westfloridahospital.com) or call (850) 494-3212.

###