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Mercy Health Has Southwest Ohio's First Accredited Nurse Residency Program

(CINCINNATI; March 21, 2019) – Mercy Health is pleased to announce that its Nurse Residency Program has achieved accreditation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). It is the first program in southwest Ohio to earn the accreditation.

Mercy Health's year-long paid nurse residency program is open to new graduates and nurses with less than 12 months of acute care experience.

"Our program allows new nurses to enter specialty areas out of school, instead of the typical wait of one to three years. It offers them the chance to continue their education and fast track their careers by growing their skills and confidence quickly," said Mercy Health Central Market President Pat Davis-Hagens, executive leader of the nurse residency program. "The program has helped us realize other important benefits, too, including improved patient experience and high quality nursing care."

The program offers the support that is crucial in helping newly graduated nurses make the transition to working in the acute care setting by partnering new nurses with an experienced nurse mentor. In addition to playing a key role in improved nurse recruitment and retention, this program helps drive strong nurse engagement, which in turn has a positive impact on the quality of patient care.

Mercy Health's Nurse Residency Program has produced phenomenal results, such as a statistically significant increase in knowledge acquisition. Turnover, which was previously in line with the national average, has dropped by 75% and vacancies stand at an all-time low.

"Engaged nurses stay on the job and that drives down labor costs, allowing us to invest more in direct patient care," said Davis-Hagens.

ANCC Practice Transition Accreditation validates hospital residency or fellowship programs that transition registered nurses (RNs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) into new practice settings that meet rigorous, evidence-based standards for quality and excellence. Nurses in accredited transition programs, like Mercy Health's Nurse Residency Program experience curricula that promote the acquisition of knowledge, skills and professional behaviors necessary to deliver safe, high-quality care.

"We're very proud of our ANCC accreditation," said Davis-Hagens. "It gives nurse residents and fellows assurance that Mercy Health offers an elevated transition program with a clear course of instruction and reliable evaluation methods. With ANCC Accreditation, our transitioning nurses gain the skills and confidence needed to perform effectively within a new practice setting."

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association (ANA), provides individuals and organizations throughout the nursing profession with the resources they need to achieve practice excellence. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify

nurses in specialty practice areas; recognize healthcare organizations for promoting safe, positive work environments; and accredit providers and approvers of continuing nursing education. In addition, ANCC provides leading-edge information and education services and products to support its core credentialing programs. www.nursecredentialing.org.

Mercy Health - Cincinnati is part of Bon Secours Mercy Health (BSMHealth.org), one of the top 20 health systems in the United States, one of the largest employers in Ohio and part of the top performing quartile of Catholic health systems for lowest cost per case for patient care. Mercy Health – Cincinnati makes advanced, compassionate, quality health care easy to help you be well in mind, body and spirit. Mercy Health – Cincinnati has been serving Greater Cincinnati for more than 160 years and provides an integrated network of leading physicians, compassionate caregivers, comprehensive services and exceptional care at more than 180 locations across the region. The Mercy Health – Cincinnati network of care includes five award-winning hospitals, senior living communities, primary care and specialty physician practices, outpatient centers, fitness centers and a variety of outreach programs. Mercy Health - Cincinnati hospitals have earned national Truven Health Analytics' 100 Top Hospitals honors more times than all other Cincinnati hospitals combined, placing them among the best hospitals in the nation. Truven has also named Mercy Health - Cincinnati as one of the nation's Top 15 health systems five times, more than any other health system in Cincinnati. To learn more visit, mercy.com and engage in the conversation via Mercy Health - Cincinnati's social media channels (@mercy_health on Twitter and Mercy Health - Cincinnati on Facebook).