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Arkansas Methodist Medical Center Earns AABB Accreditation

PARAGOULD, AR – Arkansas Methodist Medical Center has been granted AABB accreditation for blood banking services, according to Dr. David Quinn, AMMC Laboratory Medical Director.

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, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center 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,” Arleen Howard, AMMC Laboratory Manager explained. AMMC 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

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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 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, Core Blood, Somatic Cells)
- Immunohematology Reference Laboratories
- Perioperative Services
- Relationship//Parentage Testing

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 safety.

A recognized leader, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center in Paragould provides progressive, compassionate healthcare to residents throughout Northeast Arkansas and Southeast Missouri. Additional information about AMMC is available at: www.arkansasmethodist.org.