



For information:
Colleen Swanson
218.999.1454
colleen.swanson@granditasca.org

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**GRAND ITASCA CLINIC AND HOSPITAL AWARDED ACCREDITATION FROM THE
JOINT COMMISSION**

Grand Rapids, MN – By demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission’s national standards for health care quality and safety, Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital and its Home Care Program have earned the Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval™.

“We sought accreditation for our organization because we want to demonstrate our commitment to providing the highest levels of safety and high quality care for our patients.” says Jack Carlisle, Chief Medical Officer at Grand Itasca. “This accreditation and what we go through to achieve it helps us hardwire high quality and patient safety into all our processes. The Joint Commission is one of those organizations that expects us to constantly improve our processes and outcomes”.

The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital and its Home Care Program on August 18-20, 2009. The accreditation award recognizes Grand Itasca’s dedication to complying with the Joint Commission’s state-of-the-art standards on a continuous basis.

“Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization’s performance and the outcomes of care,” says Mark Pelletier, R.N., M.S, executive director, Hospital Programs, Accreditation and Certification Services, The Joint Commission. “The community should be proud that Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital and its Home Care Program are focusing on the most challenging goal—to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels.”

“The entire staff is involved in our quality improvement processes and when the Joint Commission states, ‘Grand Itasca should be extremely proud of the work they have done as this was a remarkable survey’ we know we are on the right track”, says Gloria Holcomb, Senior Director of Quality and Risk at Grand Itasca. “We earn the “Gold Seal of Approval” because of the dedication of our staff and providers to continuously improve the safety and quality care we provide patients at Grand Itasca. They are an awesome team.”

Grand Itasca is one of a handful of health care institutions in NE Minnesota to earn the “Gold Seal”. Founded in 1951, the Joint Commission is the nation’s oldest and

largest standards setting and accrediting body in health care. It seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. For more information, visit www.jointcommission.org or call (630) 792-5000.

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