

October 11, 2022**Immediate Release****Contact:** JoAnn Cavanaugh, Director Public Relations
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Kenmore Mercy Hospital Intensive Care Unit Receives Gold-Level Beacon Award for Nursing Excellence

*National year award marks significant milestone on the path to
exceptional patient care and achieving a healthy work environment*

The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Kenmore Mercy Hospital has been named a recipient of the Gold-Level Beacon Award for Excellence presented by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). The award recognizes the nation's highest performing hospital nursing units for excellence in professional practice, patient care, and clinical outcomes.

This is the fourth consecutive Beacon Award for Kenmore Mercy's ICU and its first Gold recognition, which is the only one in Western New York and one of only 20 in New York State. The award's progressive bronze, silver, and gold recognition levels represent hospitals' ongoing efforts to continually improve patient care. Units that earn Beacon Award designation meet national criteria consistent with Magnet Recognition, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and the National Quality Healthcare Award.

"In our continued pursuit of excellence, our ICU team consistently challenges itself against the highest performing teams in the country," said Heather Telford, Vice President of Patient Care Services. "Every member of our team should be extremely proud of the care they provide, especially during these challenging times. Recognitions like this let our patients and community know that our ICU meets and exceeds the highest standards of care."

Created to recognize nursing units that distinguish themselves in the care of patients and their families, the Beacon Award for Excellence is a significant milestone on the path to exceptional patient care and a healthy work environment. To be eligible for the award, hospital units must meet defined criteria in the following categories: Leadership Structures and Systems; Appropriate Staffing and Staff Engagement; Effective Communication, Knowledge Management and Learning Development; Evidence-Based Practice and Processes; and Outcome Measurements.

"Our entire ICU team is committed to providing safe, high quality care to our critically-ill patients," said Michael Gough, MD, System Medical Director of Critical Care for Catholic Health. "Nursing units that receive the Beacon Award for Excellence not only provide the very best care, but create an environment where clinicians want to work."

About the Beacon Award for Excellence: Established in 2003, the Beacon Award for Excellence offers a road map to help guide exceptional care through improved outcomes and greater overall patient satisfaction. U.S. and Canadian units where patients receive their principal nursing care after hospital admission qualify for this excellence award. Units that receive the Beacon Award for Excellence meet criteria in six categories: leadership structures and systems; appropriate staffing and staff engagement; effective communication, knowledge management, and learning and development; evidence-based practice and processes; and outcome measurement. To learn more, visit www.aacn.org/beacon or call (800) 899-2226.

About the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses: Founded in 1969 and based in Aliso Viejo, California, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) is the largest specialty nursing organization in the world. AACN represents the interests of more than half a million acute and critical care nurses and includes more than 200 chapters in the United States. The organization's vision is to create a healthcare system driven by the needs of patients and their families in which acute and critical care nurses make their optimal contribution. To learn more about AACN, visit www.aacn.org, connect with the organization on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aacnface or follow AACN on Twitter at www.twitter.com/aacnme.

About Kenmore Mercy Hospital: Kenmore Mercy Hospital has served Buffalo's northern suburbs since 1951. Today, the 184-bed hospital, part of Catholic Health, continues to meet the changing needs of the local community and beyond. Its Orthopedic Campus of Excellence features a dedicated Knee & Hip Center and comprehensive rehabilitation care, including an inpatient Medical Rehabilitation Unit and on-campus subacute and outpatient rehabilitation services. The hospital offers 24-hour emergency care, Joint Commission-accredited stroke services, specialized neurosurgery and critical care services, and a wide range of diagnostic and treatment services. A national quality and patient safety leader, Kenmore Mercy has earned 17 consecutive "A" ratings in the Leapfrog Group's bi-annual Hospital Safety Grade report. In 2017, Kenmore Mercy became the region's only Magnet-recognized hospital, reflecting the highest standards of nursing professionalism, collaboration and teamwork.