



## **Sancta Maria Nursing Facility Awarded Accreditation from Joint Commission**

Cambridge, MA (January 31, 2013) – Sancta Maria Nursing Facility, a 139-bed skilled nursing facility providing both long-term care and short-term rehabilitation, has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for accreditation by demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety in long term care. The *Medicare/Medicaid Certification-Based* Long Term Care Accreditation award recognizes Sancta Maria's dedication to continuous compliance with The Joint Commission's state of the art standards.

Sancta Maria Nursing Facility underwent a rigorous unannounced on-site survey, during which a team of Joint Commission expert surveyors evaluated the organization for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of residents, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management.

"In achieving Joint Commission accreditation, Sancta Maria has demonstrated its commitment to the highest level of care for its residents that goes above and beyond federal and state requirements," says Gina Zimmermann, M.S., senior executive director, Long Term Care Accreditation, The Joint Commission. "Accreditation is a voluntary process and I commend Sancta Maria for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate its standard of care and instill confidence in the community it serves."

The Joint Commission's Long Term Care Accreditation Program was established in 1966 and today accredits more than 1,000 organizations offering long term care and skilled nursing facility services. The Joint Commission's long term care standards address important functions relating to the care of residents and the management of long term care organizations. The standards are developed in consultation with long term care experts, providers, measurement experts and residents.

"With Joint Commission accreditation, we are making a significant investment in quality on a day-to-day basis from the top down. Joint Commission accreditation provides us a framework to take our organization to the next level and helps create a culture of excellence," a Sancta Maria spokesperson said. "Achieving Joint Commission accreditation, for our organization, is a major step toward maintaining excellence and continually improving the care we provide."

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value.

The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 10,600 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,600 other health care organizations that provide long term care, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission also certifies more than 2,400 disease-specific care programs such as stroke, heart failure, joint replacement and stroke rehabilitation, and 400 health care staffing services.

An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

To learn more about Sancta Maria Nursing Facility please visit [www.sanctamaria.org](http://www.sanctamaria.org).