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## RVH a leader in EVS education

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) has been recognized with a Leading Practice designation from Accreditation Canada for having an environmental services educator (ESE). RVH is the only health centre in Canada to have an educator devoted entirely to the practice of cleaning in relation to infection prevention and control (IPAC) in a health care setting.

“Being recognized by Accreditation Canada for this Leading Practice really is a great honour because it demonstrates how RVH invests in education to ensure we do the very best for our patients in all aspects of care,” says Dr. Chris Tebbutt, vice president, Academic & Medical Affairs, RVH. “The ESE ensures that our environmental services (EVS) staff are learning and using the most current and best practices to help reduce the spread of infection in our health centre. This is an extraordinary accomplishment which puts us at the forefront of patient safety. It really is something of which we are very proud.”

RVH’s ESE – Pamela Oertel - orientates new staff with procedures, educates current staff about best practices, ensures consistency in cleaning practices, oversees laundry and conducts audits. The ESE serves as a liaison between RVH’s clinical educators, who work with frontline professional staff and the health centre’s IPAC team. Additionally, the ESE works with other clinical educators to update policies and procedures related to environmental services.

“This is a very exciting role for me, not only because it is a first in Canada, but I enjoy contributing to patient safety through education,” says Oertel. “It’s a busy schedule because I have to ensure our staff on all shifts – day and night, weekday and weekend - receive education and auditing, but it is so fulfilling. Anything we can do to ensure our patients are safe is our top priority and I’m proud to be a part of it.”

The need for an ESE was first identified when RVH’s EVS team grew substantially to manage size of the new health centre which doubled in size during the 2012 expansion. The opportunity for this to be a full-time position was evident. Oertel is the second person to fill the role which began with current RVH IPAC practitioner, Amanda Sturgeon in 2012.

Accreditation Canada is an independent, not-for-profit organization that accredits health care and social services organizations in Canada and around the world. Its comprehensive accreditation programs foster ongoing quality improvement through evidence-based standards and a rigorous external peer review. Accredited by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua), Accreditation Canada has been helping organizations improve health care quality and patient safety for more than 55 years.

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**For more Information:**

**Jane Cocking**

Manager, Corporate Communications  
705-728-9090 ext. 41611

**Jennifer Moore**

Corporate Communications  
705-728-9090 ext. 41618

**About RVH:**

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH’s team of over 350 physicians, 2,500 employees and 850 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including cancer care, stroke services, orthopaedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering high-quality, safe care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit [www.rvh.on.ca](http://www.rvh.on.ca)