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Aultman Receives NICHE Designation

CANTON, Ohio (Aug. 19, 2015) – Aultman Hospital announces it has once again received designation as a NICHE Hospital. The NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) designation indicates a hospital's commitment to elder care excellence.

Aultman recognizes growth in the older adult population. In 2014, 46 percent of Aultman inpatients were ages 65 and older. Nurses play an integral role in providing care to this older adult population and the unique set of needs this group has. Aultman began an association with the NICHE program when they first became designated in 2013 and has been redesignated each year since.

The NICHE designation signals dedication to providing patient-centered care for older adult patients. Through participation in the NICHE program — a leading elder care nursing program — Aultman is able to offer evidence-based, interdisciplinary approaches that promote better outcomes, positive experiences, and improved care for older adults. This leads to greater satisfaction rates for patients, their families and staff.

“Historically, one-third of older adults experience functional decline while hospitalized,” explained Aultman NICHE Coordinator Linda Griggs MSN, RN-BC, ACNS-BC. “Our goal to prevent this from happening by focusing on the unique way care is delivered to this population. Not only are we providing quality care for their acute medical problem, but our health care team is looking at how patients were functioning at home to design a plan of care aimed at preventing further decline.”

“Aultman shows a tremendous commitment to meet the most critical challenge of our times - quality care of older adults,” says Barbara Bricoli, MPA, Executive Director - NICHE. “The hospital’s dedication to drive continuous improvement processes and enhance care marks them as leaders in the field.”

About NICHE

NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) is an international program designed to help improve the care of older adults. The vision of NICHE is for all patients 65-and-over to be given sensitive and exemplary care. The mission of NICHE is to provide principles and tools to stimulate a change in the culture of healthcare facilities to achieve patient-centered care for older adults. NICHE, based at NYU College of Nursing, has over 550 hospitals and healthcare organizations from the U.S., Canada, Bermuda and Singapore in the network. For more information visit www.nicheprogram.org

About Aultman

Aultman Health Foundation is a not-for-profit health care organization serving Stark and surrounding counties. The vertically integrated institution includes Aultman Hospital, Aultman Orrville Hospital, the locally managed health-insurance provider AultCare, The Aultman Foundation and Aultman College. With 808 beds, 535 active physicians and a staff of more than 5,000 employees, Aultman is Stark County's largest hospital. For more information, visit www.aultman.org.

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