

Immediate Release

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Christiana Care Health System Designated a Center for Comprehensive Care for Multiple Sclerosis

Integrated, multidisciplinary approach earns first-in-Delaware recognition

(NEWARK, Del. – July 12, 2017) For its integrated and multidisciplinary approach to care of people with multiple sclerosis, [Christiana Care Health System](#) has earned the designation of Center for Comprehensive MS Care from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

This recognition – the first to be awarded in Delaware – places Christiana Care in the top tier of MS programs nationwide. Only 129 centers in the United States have earned this designation National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

“This recognition affirms the effectiveness of our multidisciplinary approach in addressing the complex needs of people with this disease,” said Jason M. Silversteen, D.O., director of the Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Center and member of the health care advisory committee of the Greater Delaware Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. “By providing respectful, innovative and expert care, we are helping our neighbors with multiple sclerosis live more healthy and productive lives.”

The Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Center serves about 1,300 patients, representing about half of the people in Delaware who have been diagnosed with the disease. The Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Center partners with providers from across multiple specialties to coordinate care plans that include medical, psychological, rehabilitative, social and behavioral services. Because depression is a common symptom of multiple sclerosis, a behavioral health nurse also is embedded within the program to provide in-house counseling and referrals to psychiatrists.

Multiple sclerosis is a nervous system disease that affects a human’s brain and spinal cord. The disease damages the myelin sheath, the material that surrounds and protects nerve cells. This damage blocks messages between the brain and body, causing the symptoms of multiple sclerosis, which include visual disturbances, muscle weakness, poor coordination, and memory problems.

The disease often begins in people between the ages of 20 and 40. Based on scientific extrapolations on the prevalence of multiple sclerosis, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society estimates that nearly 2.3 million people in the world have the disease.

Christiana Care's status was conferred as part of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Partners in MS Care program, which seeks to support quality multiple sclerosis care.

“Comprehensive MS Care is focused on the many complex needs of people living with MS,” said Kathleen Costello, vice president of Healthcare Access for the National MS Society. “This care model requires a high level of expertise and dedication across multiple disciplines and we are pleased to have Christiana Care designated as a National MS Society Partner in MS Care: Center for Comprehensive Care.”

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care systems, ranking as the 21st leading hospital in the nation and 10th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. The health system includes The Medical Group of Christiana Care, a network of primary care physicians, medical and surgical specialists as well as home health care, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services and patient/family advisors for core health care services. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services. Christiana Care has an extensive range of outpatient services, and through Christiana Care Quality Partners, Christiana Care works closely with its medical staff to achieve better health, better access to care and lower cost. Christiana Care is home to Delaware's only Level I trauma center, the highest capability center and the only one of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers this highest level of care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds. For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/whoweare.

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