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## Nurses recognized as provincial leaders

### Honoured for making hospitals safer place

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Cambridge Memorial Hospital's nurses have been recognized as leaders in the province when it comes to making hospitals safer places for patients to get back to good health.

The nurses were recognized by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario as one of about 12 hospitals in Ontario designated as a Best Practice Spotlight Organization.

Not only did the hospital's nurses, led by vice-president of patient services Bea Mudge, take on the bold initiative to reach the designation, they went far beyond most hospitals by implementing 13 new guidelines developed by the association.

"This is just a huge feat," described hospital president Julia Dumanian, during last week's board of governors meetings. "It's a safer, stronger community hospital."

Most hospitals only adopted one or two new guidelines.

The new designation will give Cambridge Memorial "magnet" status, according to the president, as it will attract more nurses, as well as new recruits.

Meanwhile, the hospital will continue in a province-driven bid to make hospitals safer from viruses acquired while in hospital. Starting this week, Cambridge Memorial will be posting on its website incidents relating to infections acquired from surgery (at surgery site), central line infections, ventilator associated pneumonia and even hand hygiene compliance. Hospitals are already required to publicly report cases of clostridium difficile (C. diff), as well as several other hospital-acquired infections.

The patient safety reporting statistics are listed on the hospital's website at [www.cmh.org/reporting.php](http://www.cmh.org/reporting.php).

The designation comes as good news for the hospital, which is currently undergoing an operational review ordered by the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network to resolve this fiscal year's deficit of \$3.5 million. No decision has been made about whether the hospital or the health network will pay for the cost of the review.

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