

Gilchrist Awarded CHAP Accreditation, Receives Highest Possible Survey Results

HUNT VALLEY, Md., January 6, 2022

Gilchrist was awarded renewed hospice accreditation for three years by the accrediting body Community Health Accreditation Partner, Inc. (CHAP), and achieved the highest level of excellence in every category. By achieving CHAP Accreditation, Gilchrist has also been deemed to meet the Medicare Conditions of Participation and is certified as a Medicare provider.

The accreditation was conferred after a rigorous site visit by CHAP surveyors the week of December 6. According to the surveyors, fewer than 10 hospices in the past 12 years have achieved the same survey results as Gilchrist.

CHAP Accreditation demonstrates that Gilchrist meets the industry's highest nationally recognized standards. The rigorous evaluation by CHAP focuses on structure and function, quality of services and products, human and financial resources and long-term viability. Simply stated, adherence to CHAP's standards leads to better quality care.

In addition to its hospice program, Gilchrist received accreditation for its new Gilchrist Center Baltimore inpatient center and certification for its Palliative Care program. Gilchrist's Palliative Care program is believed to be the first palliative program in the tri-state region to receive CHAP certification.

"This achievement is a validation of Gilchrist's dedication to quality," said Catherine Hamel, president of Gilchrist. "Our staff's thoughtful planning, preparation and adherence to the highest standards mean families can be assured that we deliver exceptional care for every patient, every time."

"By achieving CHAP Accreditation, Gilchrist has shown a commitment to excellence," said Nathan DeGodt, CHAP President & CEO. "This is the sixth year Gilchrist has achieved CHAP Accreditation, and we are excited to continue our partnership by offering support in its commitment to providing quality care and continuous improvement."

The CHAP surveyors noted a high level of care integration and standardization within Gilchrist. For example, they observed an interdisciplinary team meeting where every discipline participated in the conversation and the care plan included each team member's input. This integrated approach ensures the best care plan for patients and families. The surveyors also noted Gilchrist's consistent use of standardized workflows, the team's commitment to continuous improvement and learning, and teamwork.

CHAP is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body for community-based health care organizations. Created in 1965, CHAP was the first to recognize the need and value for accreditation in community-based care. CHAP is the oldest national community-based accrediting body, with more than 9,000 agencies currently accredited nationwide. Through “deeming authority” granted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), CHAP has the regulatory authority to survey agencies providing home health, hospice and home medical equipment services to determine if they meet the Medicare Conditions of Participation and CMS Quality Standards. CHAP’s purpose is to define and advance the highest standards of community-based care.

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ABOUT GILCHRIST

Gilchrist is a nationally recognized nonprofit leader in serious illness and end-of-life care. With elder medical care, counseling and hospice, we help people at every stage of serious illness live life to the fullest and make informed choices about their care. Since 1994, the organization has served thousands of individuals throughout Central Maryland—in homes, in skilled nursing and residential care communities, and at our three inpatient hospice centers in Towson, Howard County and Baltimore. Gilchrist is accredited by CHAP (Community Health Accreditation Partner), is a recipient of the Circle of Life award from the American Hospital Association, and is part of GBMC HealthCare, which received the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award in 2020. For more information about Gilchrist, visit www.gilchristcares.org.

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