

PRESS RELEASE

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Kindred Hospital Bay Area Tampa Earns ‘Quality Respiratory Care Provider’ Designation

Tampa, FL (January 19 , 2017) – Kindred Hospital Bay Area Tampa was named a 2016 quality respiratory care provider by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), signifying that the hospital meets the standards of the AARC’s new criteria program aimed at making sure patient in long-term care hospitals have access to respiratory care services provided by qualified respiratory therapists.

Kindred Hospital Bay Area Tampa is a 73-bed transitional care hospital that provides aggressive, specialized care to patients who have serious medical conditions and often need extended hospital stays. The hospital delivers excellent outcomes in the areas of critical care, respiratory therapy, wound care, and other medical complexities, and **95 % of its patients and families are highly likely to recommend Kindred.** The new designation affirms its leadership in respiratory care.

“This designation validates the strength of our respiratory team and the high quality care they deliver,” said Sudandra Ratnasamy, CEO of Kindred Hospital Bay Area Tampa. “Being an AARC-recognized Quality Respiratory Care Provider further establishes our hospital as an attractive and beneficial resource for individuals in the region with respiratory care needs.”

The AARC started the Quality Respiratory Care Recognition (QRCR) program in 2003 to help consumers make informed choices about their healthcare. The program initially enrolled hospitals that agreed to ensure patient safety by adhering to a strict set of criteria governing their respiratory care services. Home care organizations were added to the program a year later, and this year the Association added long-term care facilities, including skilled nursing facilities and long-term acute care hospitals.

Recognized organizations are listed on the AARC's consumer website, www.yourlunghealth.org. To qualify for the recognition, Kindred Hospital Bay Area Tampa met more than a dozen criteria related to conditions such as the designation of a medical director who reviews plans of care weekly; equipment maintenance programs and safeguards; the establishment of an overall respiratory quality assurance program; and therapists’ 24/7 availability, ongoing training and qualifications. You can find the entire list of criteria [here](#).

The AARC's QRCR program grew out of growing concerns among healthcare leaders and the general public regarding the safety and quality of healthcare services provided to patients. Organizations that meet the QRCR requirements provide a level of respiratory care consistent with national standards and guidelines, and should be commended for their commitment to quality care.

For more information about Kindred Hospital Bay Area Tampa, visit its website at www.khtampa.com.

About the AARC

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) is the leading national and international professional association for respiratory care. The AARC encourages and promotes professional excellence, advances the science and practice of respiratory care, and serves as an advocate for patients and their families, the public, the profession and the respiratory therapist.

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About Kindred Healthcare

Kindred Healthcare, Inc., a top-90 private employer in the United States, is a FORTUNE 500 healthcare services company based in Louisville, Kentucky with annual revenues of approximately \$7.2 billion⁽¹⁾. As of October 1, 2016, Kindred through its subsidiaries had approximately 102,200 employees providing healthcare services in 2,702 locations in 46 states, including 82 long-term acute care hospitals, 19 inpatient rehabilitation hospitals, 91 nursing centers, 19 sub-acute units, 647 Kindred at Home home health, hospice and non-medical home care sites of service, 104 inpatient rehabilitation units (hospital-based) and contract rehabilitation service businesses which served 1,740 non-affiliated sites of service. Ranked as one of Fortune magazine’s Most Admired Healthcare Companies for seven years, Kindred’s mission is to promote healing, provide hope, preserve dignity and produce value for each patient, resident, family member, customer, employee and shareholder we serve. For more information, go to www.kindredhealthcare.com. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

(1) Revenues based upon Kindred consolidated revenues for the twelve months ended September 30, 2016.