



For Immediate Release
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Subject: Shodair Children's Hospital Genetics Laboratory Earns Re-Accreditation

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HELENA — Shodair Children's Hospital is proud to announce that its genetics laboratory once again earned praises and the gold seal of approval for quality health care—literally. Shodair's lab recently passed a comprehensive inspection and was awarded accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The Joint Commission evaluated the laboratory's performance in complying with nearly 300 standards related to quality control, safety, infection control, leadership, management of human resources, management of information, ongoing performance improvement activities and other issues.

Joint Commission accreditation confirms that Shodair's lab has demonstrated a high level of quality in care and services offered to patients and healthcare providers. Accreditation is awarded for a two-year period, and is indicated by a gold seal specifying national quality approval.

"We're happy to have once again demonstrated our commitment to quality lab services," said Shodair Administrator Jack Casey. "Achieving Joint Commission accreditation for our laboratory is an important part of confirming the expectations of healthcare providers across the country who count on us for accurate and timely genetic testing results." Shodair's lab performs genetic testing upon physician referral or in conjunction with Shodair's genetic outreach clinics across the state.

Last summer, the entire hospital passed an exhaustive inspection and was awarded a three-year re-accreditation by the Joint Commission following a comprehensive survey of the hospital's psychiatric facilities, care, and services.

The Joint Commission evaluates nearly 17,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Founded in 1951, it is an independent, not-for-profit organization, and the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

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About Shodair Children's Hospital—Shodair Children's Hospital provides acute and residential psychiatric care for Montana children and adolescents, and clinical and laboratory medical genetic services to residents of all ages. Shodair is a non-profit, non-denominational facility and the state's only Children's Miracle Network hospital. The medical genetics department at Shodair is the state's medical genetics program, and provides comprehensive services to patients at the Helena campus and in communities throughout the state, via outreach clinics.