

Lakeland's Short- and Long-Term Care Facilities Offer Many Advantages

Lakeland's Specialty Hospital and Lakeland Continuing Care Center offer significant advantages to patients, their families, physicians and care managers. Physicians respect the quality of care evidenced by the high registered nurse mix, longevity of its nurses and on-site geriatrician. Care managers from Kalamazoo, South Bend, South Haven, Michigan City and Grand Rapids demonstrate their confidence in routinely referring patients.

In both facilities, patients most often compliment the homelike feeling of the surroundings. Families also appreciate the patient-friendly services.

- **Nurse Staffing at both centers is among the highest in Michigan.** State regulations require one registered nurse. Not counting the nursing director, Lakeland staffs six to 10 registered nurses per day and afternoon shift. "Our daily average is five to seven times the regulation number," stated **Sandra Place**, administrator for Lakeland Continuing Care Center.
- **Geriatrician Oversight.** **Keith Van Oosterhout, MD**, a certified medical director through the American Medical Directors Association, is board-certified in family practice with a certificate of added qualifications (CAQ) in geriatrics. He is also board-certified by the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He rounds at both Lakeland Continuing Care Center in St. Joseph and Berrien Specialty Hospital.
- **Management Experience.** Lakeland's nursing staff is among the most experienced in the state.



At Berrien Center, the nursing administration has a combined 75 years of experience in long-term care. In St. Joseph, the administrative nursing team has a combined 50 years of experience.

- **Nursing Continuity.** In some parts of Michigan, the turnover rate is 80 percent in long-term care units. At Lakeland, the 8% rate is the best in the state and among the lowest in the country.
- **Eden Alternative.** Lakeland Continuing Care Center in St. Joseph pioneered the Eden Alternative in the area and is one of only a handful of Eden homes to have achieved the 10-star rating. Berrien Specialty Hospital offers the Eden alternative-- a philosophy of long-term care that makes the environment more homelike. Lakeland's award-winning facility in St. Joseph has hosted tours for healthcare professionals from Australia, Japan, Canada and all over the U.S. One consultant, Angela Kirkpatrick, MSW, described it as "...the best expression of the Eden concept—and a working one—I've ever seen." Patients are encouraged to

