

## **VA BUTLER LAUDS BALFURD HEALTHCARE LINEN SERVICES FOR ACCREDITATION**

TIPTON, Pa. – The Veterans Administration Butler Healthcare Center originally chose Balfurd Healthcare Linen Services based on affordability, quality and customer service, according to John Brewer, CHESP, VA Butler environmental program manager. Balfurd’s recent accreditation by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council confirms that the linen service assists the VA Butler Healthcare Center in meeting federal standards for sanitation and disease control, he says.

“When you’re dealing with hospital-grade linens, you have to have high standards to avoid cross-contamination,” Brewer said. “I’m grateful to have a contractor like Balfurd who’s concerned about that and wants to do the best job for our country’s veterans.”

Balfurd is one of just five HLAC-accredited companies in Pennsylvania. Earning accreditation involved onsite HLAC inspections of Balfurd’s complete healthcare textile processing cycle, from handling and transporting soiled textiles to in-plant processing and then delivery back to the customer. Particular attention is paid to federal regulations for bloodborne pathogen exposure

“Accreditation assures our clients that we’re following sanitary best practices for our industry,” said Sam Spence, general manager of Balfurd Healthcare Linen Services. “Ultimately, it helps our client facilities improve patient care.”

The VA Butler Healthcare Center serves more than 18,000 northwestern Pennsylvania veterans each year through its 120-bed inpatient facilities and five outpatient clinics. Since its in-house hospital laundry closed four years ago, the organization has outsourced to Balfurd the laundering of bed linens and patient robes and pajamas.

“Balfurd helps us provide a healthy environment for the veterans,” Brewer said. “I can be assured I’m getting top-quality linens.”

“Flu and ‘super viruses’ are major concerns for hospitals and other healthcare facilities today,” Balfurd’s general manager said. “By using an accredited laundry like Balfurd, the VA administrators in Butler know they’re doing everything possible to prevent the spread of infection via bed linens and other textiles.”

Balfurd Healthcare Linen Services provides laundry and linen services to hospitals, nursing homes, doctor’s offices, and medical and surgical centers throughout Pennsylvania and northern Maryland. Based in Tipton, Balfurd’s parent company, Balfurd Inc., is a family-owned linen rental and healthcare linen company founded in 1927.

The Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Frankfort, Ill., that inspects and accredits laundries processing healthcare textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities.

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