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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (EASTON- February 3, 2010)

Bilconish Named Director of Professional Nursing Practice and Magnet Program

Barbara Bilconish, MSN, RN-BC, was recently named director of Professional Nursing Practice and Magnet Program for Shore Health System. In this new position, she is responsible for staff orientation, continuing education and research for the Department of Nursing. She ensures that Shore Health System maintains the highest caliber of nurses through collaborations with nursing schools in the region and by overseeing the nationally acclaimed novice nurse orientation programs, Critical Care University and Graduate University. Bilconish will continue to coordinate all activities related to maintaining Shore Health System's status as a Magnet® designated health system.

A graduate of the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh, Bilconish earned a bachelor's in nursing science from Salisbury University and a master's in science with a focus in nursing education from the University of Maryland. She received certificates in Nursing Administration from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and in Nursing Professional Development from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She is a member of National Nursing Staff Development Organization, Sigma Theta Tau International, the National Oncology Nursing Society, the Upper Eastern Shore Oncology Nursing Society, the American Nurses Association and the Maryland Nurses Association.

From 1975 to 1986, Bilconish worked at Dorchester General Hospital, where she progressed from staff nurse to nurse manager of the medical/surgical and telemetry units. In 1986, she was

promoted to director of nursing education, the position she held until 1996, when Dorchester General Hospital and The Memorial Hospital at Easton merged to form Shore Health System. Bilconish was nursing education specialist for Shore Health System until 2005, when she was appointed Magnet coordinator.

From 2005 to 2009, Bilconish led Shore Health System to successful achievement of Magnet recognition for excellence in nursing services. The American Nurses Credentialing Center's Magnet Recognition Program recognizes Shore Health System as being among only five percent of the country's hospitals that provide the best nursing care, the highest quality patient care and the most supportive and innovative working environment for nursing professionals.

Bilconish has a long history of supporting health education in the community. She currently is a cardio-pulmonary resuscitation instructor for the American Heart Association, a first aid instructor for the National Safety Council of Maryland, an instructor for the Crisis Prevention Institute, and a volunteer with the American Cancer Society's Reach to Recovery program.

“Nurse education and development is an important element of our nursing culture and a central aspect of keeping our Magnet designation,” says Chris Parker, MSN, RN, senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer for Shore Health System. “Barbara’s experience as a nurse educator and her in-depth understanding of the requirements involved to achieve and maintain Magnet status will serve us well as she takes on this new position in the Department of Nursing.”

Cutline: Barbara Bilconish, MSN, RN-BC (Bilconish Barbara.jpg)

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