

Earlier this year Grace Hospital's John C. Reece Memorial Laboratory was awarded an accreditation by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists.

System Laboratory Director Barry Street said the accreditation came as the result of an inspection that took place in May. "It's the accreditation system that we've had at Grace for a number of years. It carries a lot of prestige. The government and Joint Commission accept this accreditation in lieu of doing their own inspection."

Street also pointed out that the letter sent to the Lab said they were awarded the accreditation "with distinction." This is quite an honor to receive," said Street. "It's a testimony to the quality of services that we provide in the Grace Hospital Laboratory."

How did the Lab gain this accreditation? "The laboratory is probably the heaviest regulated department in healthcare," Street explained. "There are more than 2000 standards we have to meet - and we met the majority of those."

Street also said that the Valdese Hospital Lab has fared well with inspections lately. "The federal government has an arm called CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act). They select 5% of other accrediting agencies and do what they call a validation survey. Valdese was one of the 5% that got expected. The CLIA inspection on August 12 showed no deficiencies at the Valdese Laboratory."

"I am very proud of my staff, and I think they're the real reason we've been able to accomplish what we have," said Street. "They demonstrate a high quality of work ethic, and they're committed to meeting all those standards."



Above: Lab manager at Grace Hospital takes inventory of on-hand units of blood. Below: A lab worker performs an analysis in the John C. Reece Memorial Laboratory

