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## **Sharon Hospital Awarded Accreditation From The Joint Commission**

**Sharon, CT** – By demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission’s national standards for health care quality and safety, Sharon Hospital has earned the Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval™.

“At Sharon Hospital, we are our committed to patients’ safety and quality care every day,” says Charlie Therrien, President and CEO of Sharon Hospital. “We view our Joint Commission accreditation as a continual achievement of excellence.”

The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of Sharon Hospital on November 6-7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The accreditation award recognizes Sharon Hospital’s dedication to complying with the Joint Commission’s state-of-the-art standards on an on-going basis.

"Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care," says Darlene Christiansen, executive director, Hospital Accreditation Program, Joint Commission.

"The community should be proud that Sharon Hospital is focusing on the most challenging goal -- to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels."

"Our team showed that we are professional, knowledgeable and genuinely concerned for the well being of our patients" stated Denise Fink, Chief Quality Officer. "It was great to have had the opportunity to speak with the surveyors at the end of the survey and have them compliment us on the care we provide, as well as the sense of teamwork and relationships they saw in action. The nurse surveyor commented that she could see that Sharon Hospital is a very special place. Our accreditation is proof of an organization-wide commitment to provide quality care on an ongoing basis" added Ms. Fink.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 8,000 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,800 other health care organizations that provide long term care, assisted living, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission also accredits health plans, integrated delivery networks, and other managed care entities. In addition, The Joint Commission provides certification of disease-specific care programs, primary stroke centers, and health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

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