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## **MERRIMACK VALLEY HOSPITAL HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS A COMMUNITY VALUE FIVE-STAR HOSPITAL BY CLEVERLEY + ASSOCIATES**

Haverhill, MA (May 22, 2007) — Merrimack Valley Hospital was recently recognized as a top-ranked Community Value Provider by Cleverley + Associates (Columbus, OH). Cleverley + Associates, a leading healthcare financial consulting firm specializing in operational benchmarking and performance enhancement strategies, released the findings as part of its new publication: *State of the Hospital Industry — 2007 Edition*.

“This award is a clear, objective indication of the hospital’s stability, commitment to the community, and investment in advanced technology and equipment,” stated Dr. George Kwass, interim CEO and hospital chief of staff. “This is a tribute to our ability to maintain a cost-effective facility dedicated to community access.”

Written by William O. Cleverley, Ph.D., a noted expert in healthcare finance, the *State of the Hospital Industry* reports selected measures of hospital financial performance and discusses the critical factors that lie behind them. The publication focuses on the US acute-care hospital industry over a three-year time period (2003-2005).

For the fourth year, the *2007 State of the Hospital Industry* reports an exclusive measure developed by Cleverley + Associates: the Community Value Index™ (CVI). The CVI is a proprietary index created to offer a measure of the value that a hospital provides to its community. The book outlines the data used to calculate the CVI as well as provides a list of the Top 100 and all Five-Star (top quintile) hospitals.

“The topic of healthcare value is increasingly being discussed. Recent highlights on hospital performance and pricing have driven the dialogue; however, interested parties have been looking for objective information regarding the issues”, adds James Cleverley, co-author. “In response, the Community Value Index™ was created to provide an assessment of a hospital’s performance in three areas: financial strength and

reinvestment, cost of care, and pricing. Fundamentally, the CVI suggests that hospitals that are low cost, low charge, and use financial resources efficiently for reinvestment back into the provision of healthcare are operating with a high degree of community value.”

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**Cleverley + Associates**  
**State of the Hospital Industry**  
**Pg.2**

#### ABOUT CLEVERLEY + ASSOCIATES

Cleverley + Associates is a Columbus, Ohio-based healthcare data and consulting services firm specializing in custom data analyses and reporting for healthcare providers, consultants, and vendors. The company’s primary focus is to provide healthcare providers with solutions and recommendations that will enhance their financial performance through better pricing decisions; improved coding, capital restructuring, cost and productivity enhancements; and/or investment management changes. For more information, call Cleverley + Associates at 888-779-5663 or visit



#### ABOUT MERRIMACK VALLEY HOSPITAL

*Merrimack Valley Hospital (MVH) is a comprehensive medical facility featuring an award-winning 24-hour emergency department, inpatient acute care, and comprehensive diagnostic and outpatient services. MVH maintains 108 acute care beds, and 17 adult behavioral medicine beds; all are private rooms. More information can be found at [www.merrimackvalleyhospital.com](http://www.merrimackvalleyhospital.com).*

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