



Contact: Mary O'Neil, Director of Marketing and  
Public Relations  
Office: 978-420-1157

## **MERRIMACK VALLEY HOSPITAL WINS *EXCELLENCE THROUGH INSIGHT* AWARD**

*Recognized as a hospital at the top of its class for patient experiences*

Haverhill, MA (May 27, 2008) — Merrimack Valley Hospital recently won an *Excellence Through Insight* award for overall out-patient satisfaction given by HealthStream Research. In addition, the hospital's outpatient-laboratory unit was recognized for their overall patient satisfaction score.

"We are dedicated to delivering the highest quality of care to our patients, and we are happy to be recognized for our commitment to providing excellent customer service with a clear focus on patient experience," stated Michael Collins, CEO of Merrimack Valley Hospital.

HealthStream (NASDAQ: HSTM) is a leading provider of learning and research solutions for the healthcare industry, transforming insight into action to deliver outcomes-based results for healthcare organizations.

Through its research products, executives from approximately 1,100 healthcare facilities gain valuable insight about patients' experiences, workforce challenges, physician relations, and community perceptions of their services.

**About Merrimack Valley Hospital**

Merrimack Valley Hospital maintains 108 acute care beds, 17 adult behavioral medicine beds. All are private rooms. The hospital's clinical strengths include a 24-hour emergency department; orthopedic, endoscopic and general surgery; adult behavioral medicine care with a focus on geriatric issues. MVH also provides a wide range of outpatient services, such as surgical day care; x-rays; MRI exams; PET-Scans; 64-Slice CT Scans; digital mammography; bone density testing; dysphasia testing; nuclear medicine; and physical therapy.

The hospital's awards for excellence include the #1 Nursing Team in New England Award, 2003 (*Advance for Nursing Magazine*); National Quality Leader Award for Pneumonia Care, 2006 (CareScience Select Practice); High Reliability Cardiac Care Award, 2006 (MassPRO); Top 100 Best Acute Care Hospital Award, 2004 (Total Benchmark Solutions); and Top Ranked Community Value Provider Award, 2007 (Cleverley & Associates). An affiliate of Essent Healthcare, Inc., the hospital serves Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire. More information can be found at [www.merrimackvalleyhospital.com](http://www.merrimackvalleyhospital.com).

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