



A New Day. A New Vision for the Valley.

Contact: Mary O'Neil
978-420-1157

Director of Public Relations and Marketing
mary.oneil@merrimackvalleyhospital.com

MERRIMACK VALLEY HOSPITAL
AWARDED ACCREDITATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

Haverhill, April 23, 2009 – By demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety, Merrimack Valley Hospital has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™.

The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of Merrimack Valley Hospital on January 20 –22, 2009. The accreditation award recognizes Merrimack Valley Hospital's dedication to complying with the Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards on a continuous basis.

“We sought accreditation for our organization because we want to demonstrate our commitment to patients' safety and quality care,” says Chief Executive Officer, Michael Collins. “We view obtaining Joint Commission accreditation as another step toward achieving excellence.”

“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 Mark Pelletier, R.N., M.S, executive director, Hospital Programs, Accreditation and Certification Services, The Joint Commission. “The community should be proud that Merrimack Valley Hospital is focusing on the most challenging goal—to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels.”

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.

About Merrimack Valley Hospital:

Merrimack Valley Hospital maintains 107 acute care beds and 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, a comprehensive Pain Management Center, and a Sleep Study Lab. MVH also provides a wide range of outpatient services, such as bone density testing; dysphasia testing; echocardiograms; electroencephalograms (EEG); electromyography (EMG); full-field digital mammography; magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); positron emission tomography (PET-Scan); pulmonary function testing (PFT); nuclear medicine; surgical day care; ultrasound (general & obstetrical), and physical therapy and x-rays, and 64-Slice CT scans.

The hospital's awards for excellence include the Excellence Through Insight Award, 2008 (HealthStream Research); Best in Value Hospitals, 2008 (Data Advantage); Top Ranked Community Value Provider Award, 2007 (Cleverley & Associates); National Quality Leader Award for Pneumonia Care, 2006 (CareScience Select Practice); High Reliability Cardiac Care Award, 2006 (MassPRO); and An affiliate of Essent Healthcare, Inc., the hospital serves Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire. More information can be found at www.merrimackvalleyhospital.com.