



*A New Day. A New Vision for the Valley.*

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## **Merrimack Valley Hospital announces that urologist Christopher P. Birdsall M.D. has joined the hospital staff**

**Haverhill, MA- January 19, 2009** - Merrimack Valley Hospital is pleased to announce that Urologist Christopher P. Birdsall, M.D. has joined the staff of Merrimack Valley Hospital.

For twenty years Dr. Birdsall was with Urology Associates of Essex North with offices in Haverhill and Newburyport, but he is now a physician employed by Merrimack Valley Hospital.

"Dr. Birdsall has decided to relocate his full-time urology practice to the medical office building at Merrimack Valley Hospital. This allows the hospital to now provide full-time urology services to our patients at a local level," said Merrimack Valley Hospital CEO Michael Collins.

During his years in practice he has worked in the Merrimack Valley region with privileges at many hospitals including Anna Jaques, Amesbury Hospital, Lawrence General, Caritas Holy Family and Merrimack Valley Hospital, but he always preferred Merrimack Valley Hospital.

"Merrimack Valley Hospital is the ideal size. When you are a bit smaller it creates a distinct advantage," Dr. Birdsall said. "For a long time hospitals and physicians worked independently of one another. Hospitals worked towards their needs and doctors did the same. But with the changes in medicine, this is a natural route - the hospital and physicians working together and I am pleased to still be at Merrimack Valley Hospital."

Dr. Birdsall, a board certified urologist, grew up in Pennsylvania and attended The University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. His internship in general surgery was at Hospital University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and his residency in urological surgery was at University Hospital in Boston.

### **About Merrimack Valley Hospital:**

*Merrimack Valley Hospital maintains 108 acute care bed 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); position 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); #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).*