



WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: **GEORGE COUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Date: **SEPTEMBER 3, 2010**
Phone: **304-455-8111**

JOINT COMMISSION RENEWS WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL LAB ACCREDITATION

New Martinsville, WV – By demonstrating compliance with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization's national standards for health care quality and safety, Wetzel County Hospital has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™.

"We continually strive to improve the quality of our services, and meeting the Joint Commission's rigorous national standards is an important recognition of our efforts," says Jodi Franklin, Wetzel County Hospital's Lab Manager. The Joint Commission evaluated the laboratory's performance in complying with nearly 300 standards related to quality control, safety, infection control, leadership, management of human resources, management of information, ongoing performance improvement activities and other issues.

As the only full-time, 24 hour per day clinical laboratory in Wetzel and Tyler Counties, West Virginia as well as Monroe County Ohio, Wetzel County Hospital provides services to individuals, physicians, small business and industrial clients throughout the three county area as well as to Wetzel County Hospital's fully expanded and renovated level four emergency department.

"The ability to collect laboratory samples on-site or locally and process them on a timely basis is important in obtaining quality, accurate results," says Franklin. "Many people don't understand that laboratory services provided in many small hospital or clinics may sit for hours or be transported over long distances before they are analyzed. We encourage anyone who has an order for laboratory testing to utilize their local hospital for those services or to ask where

**3 East Benjamin Drive
New Martinsville, WV 26155
Phone 304.455.8111
Fax 304.455.4259
e-mail gcouch@wetznelhealth.org**

there lab testing is being sent to and is it an accredited lab. By not utilizing a JCAHO accredited agency you may not be assured the same rigorous standards that are met by organizations such as Wetzel County Hospital."

George Couch, Wetzel County Hospital Chief Executive Officer says efforts to improve don't stop when the Joint Commission survey is over. "Meeting the standards and achieving excellence is a continuous process," He says. "No matter how well we did today, we continue to strive to do better tomorrow."

Founded in 1951, the Joint Commission is dedicated to continuously improving the safety and quality of the nation's health care through voluntary accreditation. "The accreditation process helps promote continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in health care organizations," says Gina Zimmerman, M.S. Senior Executive Director, Joint Commission. "Achieving accreditation demonstrates Wetzel County Hospital's commitment to providing high quality and safe services."

Wetzel County Hospital is a licensed and accredited, 58-bed facility, offering comprehensive acute care inpatient, outpatient services and emergency department. The hospital is located 35 miles south of Wheeling and 60 miles north of Parkersburg, West Virginia.

- end -