



WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: **GEORGE COUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Date: **APRIL 7, 2010**
Phone: **304-455-8111**

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISION DAYS AT WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL

New Martinsville, WV – Wetzel County Hospital, along with other national, state and community organizations, are leading a massive effort to highlight the importance of advance healthcare decision-making—an effort that has culminated in the formal designation of April 16, 2010 as National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD). As a participating organization, Wetzel County Hospital is providing information and tools for the public to talk about their wishes with family, friends and healthcare providers, and execute written advance directives in accordance with West Virginia state laws. These resources are available at www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org.

On April 16, there will be information sessions at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in the Wetzel County Hospital Conference Room regarding healthcare decision making and the various options that individuals have in regard to their advance directives. Samples forms of the three types of health care directives will be available and a notary will be present for any individual who wishes to execute and advance health care directive at that time.

“As a result of National Healthcare Decisions Day, many more people in our community can be expected to have thoughtful conversations about their healthcare decisions and complete reliable advance directives to make their wishes known,” said Linda Kuenzinger, Wetzel County Hospital Social Services Director. “Fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient, and healthcare providers and facilities will be better equipped to address

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

advance healthcare planning issues before a crisis and be better able to honor patient wishes when the time comes to do so.”

For more information about National Healthcare Decision Day visit www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org.

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

- end -