



WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: **GEORGE COUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Date: **MAY 8, 2009**

Phone: **304-455-8111**

WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL RESPIRATORY THERAPY DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZE FOR QUALITY

New Martinsville, WV – Wetzel County Hospital has earned Quality Respiratory Care Recognition (QRCR) under a national program aimed at helping patients and families make informed decisions about the quality of the respiratory care services available in hospitals.

The program was started by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) in 2003 to help consumers identify facilities using qualified respiratory therapists to provide respiratory care. To qualify, Wetzel County Hospital provided documentation showing it meets the following conditions:

Rick Pancake, RRT and Director of Respiratory Therapy for Wetzel County Hospital said, “All respiratory therapists employed by the Wetzel County Hospital to deliver bedside respiratory care services are either legally recognized by the state as competent to provide respiratory care services or hold the CRT or RRT credential, meeting or exceeding the AARC requirements.” Respiratory therapists are available to patients of the Wetzel County Hospital 24 hours a day.

Other members of the respiratory therapy team at Wetzel County Hospital include Kelly Jones, RRT and Susan Goodrich, RRT. The Medical Director for the Wetzel County Hospital program is Subramaniyam Chandrasekhar, M.D.

Other personnel qualified to perform specific respiratory procedures and the amount of supervision required for personnel to carry out specific procedures must be designated in writing.

A doctor of medicine is designated as medical director of respiratory care services.

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Hospitals that meet QRQR requirements provide a level of respiratory care consistent with national standards and guidelines. Approximately 15 percent of U.S. hospitals have received this award and are listed at AARC's Web site, www.yourlunghealth.org.

Respiratory therapists are specially trained health care professionals who work under physician's orders to provide a wide range of breathing treatments and other services to people with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, lung cancer, AIDS and other lung or lung-related conditions.

Wetzel County Hospital is a licensed and accredited, 68-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.

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