



WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL

Press Release

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Digital Photo Attached

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

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Phone: **304-455-8111**

WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL REPLACES PATIENT BEDS

New Martinsville, WV – Wetzel County Hospital recently took another step in providing state of the art patient care by replacing its patient room beds with new “smart beds.” The beds are manufactured by Stryker Medical, based in Kalamazoo; MI. Stryker Medical is the leading manufacturer of medical patient handling equipment for hospitals, emergency and rescue operations.

The beds are electronically controlled with built in scales and include a fall prevention bed exit alarm system. Certain bed and patient movements can be monitored from nursing stations.

“These are the newest beds to hit the hospital market, being introduced in May of 2008. They are known as S-3 beds, which means ‘safe, simple and secure.’ A nurse can control the bed to cater to the need of each patient,” said Arlene Summers, R.N. and Chief of Inpatient Nursing for Wetzel County Hospital.

Summers explained that once the bed is positioned and programmed to custom fit the patient, it monitors the patient’s movement to decrease the chance of the patient falling out of bed. The beds also have built in scales to improve efficiency on the daily tasks nurses are expected to perform. Summers also noted that Wetzel County Hospital has been replacing all patient mattresses with a new mattress that provides much greater comfort and support, but also has a specially designed

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

antibacterial cover that provides for better infection control and easier cleaning.

“These beds bring patient security, safety, comfort and staff convenience to new levels,” noted Summers, “The beds can be lowered close to the floor to help prevent falls for certain patients. If a patient exits the bed, a warning light and alarm is activated. The bed rails also are designed to enable patients to move in and out of the bed easier, which puts less stress on staff, lessening chances of injuries assisting patients.”

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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