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Woodland Heights reaccredited by The Joint Commission

Lufkin, TX (August 4, 2011) — Woodland Heights Medical Center has been reaccredited by The Joint Commission, one of the leading agencies for quality and operating standards among health care providers.

The Joint Commission is one of the most stringent set of operating standards for health care facilities. Achieving and maintaining Joint Commission accreditation is a rigorous process – and a prestigious certification, reflecting a strong commitment to quality patient care.

Woodland Heights underwent an unannounced, onsite survey in July of this year. A team of Joint Commission surveyors evaluated Woodland Heights for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management.

“The seal of approval of The Joint Commission is the gold standard in the health care industry—an internationally recognized symbol of health care quality,” says Casey Robertson, CEO of Woodland Heights. “It is a challenging accreditation to achieve and maintain, and evidence of our commitment to the Lufkin community. This accreditation gives us the ability to say we’re one of the best hospitals in the country.”

The accreditation process encompasses thousands of quality and safety measures in various hospital departments, and helps to promote continuous, systematic improvement

among health care organizations. Hospitals are visited unannounced, and undergo an onsite survey by a team of Joint Commission experts that includes administrators, physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals. The review focuses on hospital operations across all areas that impact patient care. Reaccreditation surveys are conducted every three years and accreditation is required to participate in both Medicare and Medicaid.

Accreditation by The Joint Commission means a better hospital for the community. This is because hospitals that are accredited by The Joint Commission have improved consistency in patient care, receive regular performance evaluation, and have a culture of excellence across the organization. Hospital staff members develop new clinical skills and knowledge through the certification process. Certification standards provide a framework for hospital specialty areas, such as specific disease management programs.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission is an independent, not-for-profit organization and the world leader in evaluating the quality and safety of health care. Its mission is to continuously enhance the quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation that supports performance improvement in hospitals and other health care organizations. The Joint Commission accredits nearly 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.

About Woodland Heights Medical Center

Established in 1918, Woodland Heights Medical Center was Lufkin's first hospital. Now, nine decades later, Woodland Heights is recognized throughout Deep East Texas as the leading provider of high quality, innovative health care services. Accommodating a wide range of clinical specialties, Woodland Heights has achieved excellence in key medical and surgical areas including cardiology, pulmonology, neurology, orthopedic surgery, physical medicine/rehabilitation, vascular surgery and obstetrics and gynecology. Woodland Heights also offers a full range of outpatient diagnostic services including advanced imaging, laboratory, outpatient surgery and emergency services. Through its Rehabilitation Center, Woodland Heights offers cardiac rehabilitation, stroke recovery and physical and occupational rehabilitation. Combining modern facilities, leading technology, an exceptional staff and a commitment to the communities it serves, Woodland Heights Medical Center remains at the forefront of quality health care in Deep East Texas.

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