

For Immediate Release
October 13, 2006

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CRMC Earns Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval

By demonstrating compliance with its national standards for health care quality and safety, the Joint Commission on Accredited Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) recently awarded Cortland Regional Medical Center a three-year accreditation and the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval.

"We sought accreditation for our medical center because we want to demonstrate our commitment to patient safety and quality care," said Denise Mironti, Vice President-Nursing Services. "We view obtaining Joint Commission accreditation as part of our continuous improvement process toward achieving excellence."

Joint Commission standards address the organization's level of performance in key functional areas, such as patient rights, patient treatment, and infection control. The standards focus not only on an organization's ability to provide safe, high quality care, but on its actual performance as well. Standards set forth performance expectations for activities that affect the safety and quality of patient care. If an organization does the right things and does them well, there is a strong likelihood that its patients will experience good outcomes.

Mironti noted that Joint Commission surveyors conducted a thorough three and one half day survey at the medical center meticulously reviewing records, conducting physician and professional staff interviews, observing patients' care, and inspecting the building and equipment.

According to the Joint Commission, its surveyors evaluate and accredit nearly 15,000 healthcare organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, not-for-profit

organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's predominant standards setting and accrediting body in healthcare. The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval, a distinctive seal that is proudly displayed at accredited organizations and certified programs, is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects a commitment to meeting certain performance standards.

Brian Mitteer, President/CEO, emphasized that accreditation is only attainable through cooperation and communication among the healthcare team members. "The success of our Joint Commission survey is a credit to everyone at Cortland Regional Medical Center – our medical staff, our employees, and our volunteers. Receiving a Gold Seal of Approval is a testament to the quality of healthcare our staff provides each and every day. I am extremely proud of them, and appreciate their commitment and dedication to patient care."

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