

For *Healthwise* Insert
October 2009

Contact: Tom Quinn
Marketing Director
765-3513

CRMC Earns Quality Respiratory Care Recognition

Cortland Regional Medical Center (CRMC) 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 QRCR program was started by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) in 2003 to help consumers identify those facilities using qualified respiratory therapists to provide respiratory care. Hospitals earning QRCR designation ensure patient safety by agreeing to adhere to a strict set of criteria governing their respiratory care services.

Respiratory therapists are specially trained healthcare 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, and other lung related conditions.

To qualify for the recognition, CRMC provided documentation showing it meets the following conditions:

- All respiratory therapists employed by the 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.
- Respiratory therapists are available 24 hours.
- 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 or osteopathy is designated as medical director of respiratory care services.

The QRCCR program grew out of growing concerns among healthcare leaders and the general public regarding the safety and quality of healthcare services provided to patients. Hospitals that meet the QRCCR requirements provide a level of respiratory care consistent with national standards and guidelines, and should be commended for their commitment to quality care.

“About 700 out of 5,000 hospitals nationwide have been named a Quality Respiratory Care institution,” said Sherry Milligan, Associate Executive Director of the American Association for Respiratory Care. “The staff of Cortland Regional Medical Center should be proud of this accomplishment. The citizens in your community are fortunate to have a facility such as yours, in which they can be assured of receiving the highest standards of respiratory care.”

##