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Good Samaritan Medical Center to Become Smoke-Free Campus Effective July 1st

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.- July 1, 2011 — As part of its commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for its staff, patients, physicians, visitors, and community, Good Samaritan Medical Center will ban smoking from its campus effective July 1, 2011. No smoking or tobacco use will be permitted on any part of the hospital's campus, including all buildings, owned or leased properties, vehicles and parking lots.

Good Samaritan Medical Center serves as a model for the community in the area of promoting the good health of its staff and influencing public attitudes about smoking. The new policy will promote a completely smoke-free and tobacco-free work environment. In support of the policy, Good Samaritan Medical Center will provide helpful intervention strategies and treatment resources to assist patients and current employees in reducing their dependence on tobacco products.

“Good Samaritan Medical Center joins a growing number of progressive hospitals that are putting the health of their patients, visitors and employees first,” said Mark Nosacka, chief executive officer of Good Samaritan Medical Center. “Our efforts to go smoke free are setting a higher standard for quality of care, and send a very clear health message to patients and the community that tobacco smoke is a dangerous health hazard.”

Smoking, both from direct smoking as well as indirectly from inhaling the smoke from others who are smoking near-by, is a major cause of preventable disease and death. Secondhand smoke is classified as a “known human carcinogen” (cancer causing agent) by the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US National Toxicology Program, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a branch of the World Health Organization. Secondhand smoke can be harmful in many ways and the 2006 Surgeon General's report reached several important conclusions:

- Secondhand smoke causes premature death and disease in children and adults who do not smoke
- Secondhand smoke immediately affects the heart and blood circulation in a harmful way and contributes to heart disease and lung cancer
- There is no “safe” level of exposure to secondhand smoke
- Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and acute respiratory infections

In addition, according to the American Cancer Society, in the United States alone, secondhand smoke is responsible for 46,000 annual deaths from heart disease in non-smokers who live with smokers, and about 3,000 annual lung cancer deaths in non-smoking adults.

ABOUT GOOD SAMARITAN MEDICAL CENTER

Good Samaritan Medical Center is a 333-bed acute care hospital, which has been providing sophisticated, personalized medical care to the populations of Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast for more than 90 years.

As one of the area’s leading cancer centers, the hospital’s Cancer Institute provides comprehensive cancer services through the Comprehensive Breast Center, Gamma Knife Radiosurgery, and a Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplant Unit. The Surgical Institute offers patients minimally invasive surgical techniques through advanced surgical robotic technology. The hospital also cares for patients with known or suspected cardiovascular diseases through its Cardiac and Vascular Institute. Good Samaritan Medical Center was featured in a special advertisement in the “America’s Best Hospitals” 2010 issue of US News & World Report to commemorate their receipt of the *Get With the Guidelines* Coronary Artery Disease GOLD Award, GOLD Heart Failure Award, and SIVER Stroke Award. Certified as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission, Good Samaritan delivers timely, advanced protocols proven to save the lives and health of stroke patients.

In addition, Good Samaritan is proud to feature “Special Deliveries,” its maternity services department. The hospital houses The Newbern Suites, which are private recovery suites that offer quiet relaxation and wonderful amenities. Many additional services are available on the Good Samaritan Medical Center campus through the Sleep Disorders Center, a full-service, 24-hour Emergency Department, and a wide range of diagnostic and surgical outpatient services. Good is also home to The Palms Medical Detoxification, one of a select few hospital-based medically supervised alcohol and drug detoxification centers.

To learn more about Good Samaritan Medical Center, or to find a doctor, visit www.goodsamaritanmc.com or call 561-655-5511.

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