

NEWS RELEASE

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**GRMC Receives Accreditation and Favorable Survey Results
from The Joint Commission**

(Seguin, TX – July 5, 2007) -Guadalupe Regional Medical Center (GRMC) announced that they recently received a very favorable and successful Joint Commission survey. The purpose of the Joint Commission is to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through health care accreditation and to support performance improvement in health care organizations.

Seal of Approval

“Joint Commission accreditation is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization’s commitment to meeting certain performance standards,” explained Administrator Robert Haynes. “Having earned the Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval™, we are now accredited for three years. I am proud of our entire team of staff members, physicians and volunteers for helping to make the survey an overwhelming success.”

The survey team found GRMC in full compliance with applicable standards and repeatedly complimented the staff, noting that the Medical Center’s culture is “warm and hospitable” and provides “excellent patient care.” In addition, the surveyors described the staff as “robust in their knowledge” and the environment of care as “very positive.” The survey team also offered useful suggestions for improvement. “The survey team was inspiring and helpful, consulting with us to evaluate all aspects of patient care,” explained Haynes.

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How it works

The unannounced survey lasted for five days and was conducted by a team consisting of a physician, a registered nurse, and a behavioral health specialist. The survey is required for the hospital's accreditation and focused on four priority areas: assessment of care (infection control, medication management, treatment plans, etc.); credentialing practices; staffing; and communications (medical records, policies, all facets of staff contacts with patients, etc.).

The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits some 4,500 hospitals in the United States. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's predominant standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Since 1951, the Joint Commission has established more than 250 state-of-the-art standards that focus on improving the quality and safety of care provided by health care organizations.

Why it matters

The Joint Commission calls their surveys a comprehensive accreditation process that, “addresses the organization's level of performance in key functional areas, such as patient rights, patient treatment, and infection control. The standards focus not simply 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. The Joint Commission develops its standards in consultation with health care experts, providers, measurement experts, purchasers, and consumers.”

Guadalupe Regional Medical Center is a 119-licensed bed acute care facility, fully accredited by the Joint Commission. The medical staff of more than 50 physicians and 700 employees serves residents of Guadalupe, Comal, Wilson, Gonzales, Caldwell, Hays and Karnes counties. Last year, the Medical Center, jointly owned by the City of Seguin and Guadalupe County, admitted 5,000 patients, handled 26,000 Emergency Department visits, assisted more than 700 births, and performed 3,100 surgeries.

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