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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### STROKE, OTHER PATIENTS INVITED TO FREE SCREENING

TUPELO, Miss.—North Mississippi Medical Center's Outpatient Rehabilitation Center is offering a unique opportunity for stroke patients and other patients suffering from upper- and lower-extremity paralysis to try new technology that may benefit them.

Interested individuals are invited to schedule an appointment for free screening between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19, at the Outpatient Rehabilitation Center, located in Longtown Medical Park, 4381 S. Eason Blvd. Physical and occupational therapists will evaluate individuals and consult with their physicians to determine if functional electrical stimulation technology is recommended. For appointment information, call (662) 377-7215 or 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).

The NESS H200® Hand Rehabilitation System and the NESS I300® Foot Drop System from Bioness Inc. help patients recovering from stroke, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and incomplete spinal cord injury regain muscle control.

Both of the Bioness systems complement and accelerate traditional physical and occupational therapy. NMMC has been using both systems for several years with great success.

The hand rehabilitation system has been shown to help some patients regain hand function shortly after a stroke, as well as in some patients whose injuries are years old. The patient wears a soft polymer fitting that rests over the hand and forearm. The fitting contains five electrodes that, on command, stimulate wrist and hand muscles to extend and flex. A separate control unit allows the therapist to program a series of exercises customized for each patient.

The foot drop system is wireless and lightweight. It contains a gait sensor worn in the shoe, a wireless stimulating leg cuff worn below the knee and a control unit that the therapist programs. When the gait sensor detects "heel off," it sends a message to the leg cuff, which then stimulates the leg muscles to lift the foot accordingly. The system allows patients to achieve a more normal gait on changing terrain and at varying speeds.