

October 6, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: DEBORAH ROBERTS PUGH
(662) 377-3712

NMMC EMPLOYEES CERTIFIED AS ASTHMA EDUCATORS

TUPELO, Miss.-Two respiratory therapists from North Mississippi Medical Center have recently been certified as asthma educators.

Pontotoc native Sherry Fuqua resides in Tupelo and is a respiratory therapist with NMMC's Women and Children's Services. A respiratory therapy graduate of Itawamba Community College, she has been employed with NMMC for 27 years.

Angie Coggin of Tupelo is also a respiratory therapist with NMMC's Women and Children's Services. A native of New Orleans, La., Coggin began her respiratory education at Delgado Community College and was forced to relocate after Hurricane Katrina temporarily closed Delgado Community College. She made Tupelo home and completed her respiratory therapy education at Itawamba Community College. She has been employed with NMMC for four years.

Both therapists participate in outreach asthma education offerings such as NMMC's Asthma Super Saturdays and Live Well Health Fair. Fuqua also functions as an asthma educator for the Le Bonheur Children's Outreach Program.

They can now use the credentials "AE-C." A certified asthma educator is an expert in teaching, educating and counseling individuals with asthma and their families to minimize the impact of asthma on quality of life. To obtain certification, the respiratory therapists were tested on asthma pathophysiology and management, as well as objective and subjective evaluations used to diagnose asthma and assess its control. They teach patients and families about optimal use of medications and delivery devices, and help develop an individual's asthma action plan.

The certified asthma educators serve as a resource within the hospital and community. For more information, call 1-800-THE DESK (1-800-843-3375).