

February 26, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: SCOTT COSTELLO
(662) 377-2404

Visit www.nmhs.net for an electronic version of this article.

NMMC RESPIRATORY THERAPY DEPARTMENT RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR CARE

TUPELO, Miss.—North Mississippi Medical Center has achieved Quality Respiratory Care Recognition (QRCR) from the American Association for Respiratory Care.

The recognition is a national program aimed at helping patients and families make informed decisions about the quality of the respiratory care services available in hospitals. About 700 hospitals or approximately 15 percent of hospitals in the United States have received this award.

“We have an awesome staff that is very deserving of this award,” said Kathy Ehlers, director of NMMC’s Respiratory Therapy Department. “The staff works very hard to ensure that we provide our patients with a high level of care.”

To qualify for the recognition, NMMC met the following conditions:

- All respiratory therapists employed by the hospital to deliver bedside respiratory care services are recognized by the state as competent to provide respiratory care services and hold either the CRT or RRT credential.
- Respiratory therapists are available 24 hours daily.
- 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 pulmonary physician is designated as medical director of respiratory care services.

The American Association for Respiratory Care’s QRCR program grew out of growing concerns among health care leaders and the general public regarding the safety and quality of health care services provided to patients.

Respiratory therapists are specially trained health care 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, AIDS, and other lung or lung-related conditions.

They also care for premature infants and are key members of lifesaving response teams charged with handling medical emergencies.

The AARC membership organization represents more than 48,000 health professionals involved in respiratory care nationwide.