

**NEWS RELEASE:**

December 5, 2007

On-Call Media Beeper: (828) 444-1149

**Pardee Hospital Awarded Accreditation from the Joint Commission**

*(Hendersonville, NC)* By demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety, Pardee Hospital has earned the Joint Commission's *Gold Seal of Approval*<sup>™</sup>.

"We sought accreditation for our organization because we want to demonstrate our commitment to patient safety and quality care," according to Kris Hoce, CEO, Pardee Hospital. "We view obtaining Joint Commission accreditation as another step toward achieving excellence."

"Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care," says Darlene Christiansen, executive director, Hospital Accreditation Program, The Joint Commission. "The community should be proud that Pardee Hospital is focusing on the most challenging goal—to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels."

The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of Pardee Hospital the last week of November. The accreditation award recognizes Pardee's dedication to complying with the Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards on a continuous basis.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 8,000 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,800 other health care organizations that provide long term care, assisted living, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

Pardee Hospital is a not-for-profit community hospital founded in 1953. The main hospital is licensed for 222 acute care beds and is the second largest employer in Henderson County. The hospital has several locations separate from the main campus, including a 130-bed nursing facility, an adult day services center, a health education center in the Blue Ridge Mall, home care services, a rehab and wellness center, a midwifery program, various family and internal medicine practices, and an urgent care facility. More information is available at [www.pardeehospital.org](http://www.pardeehospital.org).

###