

**PRESS RELEASE:**

Feb. 3, 2011

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**Pardee recognized for excellence in tobacco cessation programs**

*(Hendersonville, N.C.)* Pardee Hospital was recognized by NC Prevention Partners for providing the highest standard of excellence for tobacco cessation programs offered to their employees. Hospitals receiving this acknowledgment are considered Gold Star Standard Hospitals.

“Pardee Hospital continues to shine and perform as one of the top hospitals in North Carolina. They are doing a great job in supporting their employees in quitting the use of tobacco,” said Melva Fager Okun, senior manager with NC Prevention Partners. “I applaud their great effort.”

NC Prevention Partners is a leader in reducing preventable illness and early death in North Carolina caused by tobacco use, poor nutrition, physical inactivity and obesity. They work closely with North Carolina hospital corporate leaders and staff to enhance tobacco cessation efforts and resources available to all hospital employees and patients.

In order to receive this recognition, Pardee Hospital refers their employees to effective quit programs, such as counseling, while providing comprehensive benefits such as nicotine replacement therapy and prescription medications. Pardee also offers



attractive incentives to encourage employees to quit tobacco use. These are just a few of the many components recommended by the NC Prevention Partners for comprehensive quit-tobacco systems in hospitals.

[NC Prevention Partners'](#) work in North Carolina hospitals is funded by [The Duke Endowment](#) and is in partnership with the [NC Hospital Association](#).

[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 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. For more information or to find a physician, call 1-866-790-WELL (9355) or visit [www.pardeehospital.org](http://www.pardeehospital.org).

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