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BETSY JOHNSON REGIONAL HOSPITAL RECEIVES PROGRAM CERTIFICATION from The American Association of Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR)

Dunn, N.C. – October 15, 2008 The American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR) National Certification Committee is proud to announce Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital's Cardiac Rehabilitation Program has met the criteria for AACVPR Program Certification.

The goal of program certification and recertification is to assure the facility is meeting the essential standards of care described in the *4th Edition Guidelines for Cardiac Rehabilitation and Secondary Prevention Programs*. Each program is reviewed by the AACVPR State/Regional Committees, AACVPR National Certification Committee and the AACVPR Board of Directors for final approval. The committee then presents the hospital with a certificate.

"The commitment, knowledge and professionalism of our dedicated staff most definitely validates the program contains specific core components that aim to optimize cardiovascular risk reduction, foster healthy behaviors and compliance to these behaviors for patients with cardiovascular disease," said Dr. Shankar Sanka, medical director of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. "We continually strive to maintain the highest standards possible, and this will guide us in accomplishing and maintaining this goal."

"We are pleased to receive this certification," stated Scott Wright, director of Cardiac Rehabilitation. "This demonstrates our program meets necessary state requirements, and goes above and beyond to meet national requirements. The tremendous support received from the Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital Foundation, Physicians and the communities we serve will facilitate our program's continued growth and expectations set forth."

The mission of AACVPR is to reduce morbidity, mortality, and disability from cardiovascular and pulmonary diseases through education, prevention, rehabilitation, research, and aggressive disease management. For more information on AACVPR, visit www.aacvpr.org or call 312/321-5146.

**Founded in 1985, the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR) is dedicated to the professional development of its members, through information, networking, and educational opportunities. Central to the mission is the improvement in the quality of life for patients and their families.

The Cardiac Rehabilitation program is managed by WakeMed Health and Hospitals.



Photo: Left to right - Dr. Shankar Sanka, medical director; Deborah Kennedy, RN; Scott Wright, CES, cardiac rehab director and exercise physiologist. Not pictured: Bhuvana Parmar, RD,LDN; Garrett Tolley, exercise physiologist; Debbie Ragan, PT, rehabilitation and wellness manager.

Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital, a 101-bed private not-for-profit hospital based in Dunn, North Carolina, offers emergency, primary and specialty care services to Harnett, Cumberland, Johnston, and Sampson County residents. Serving patients since 1940, the hospital has nearly 100 affiliated physicians and over 797 employees. For more information, visit bjrh.org.

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