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LSU HEALTH CARE SERVICES DIVISION HOLDS ITS QUARTERLY SITE VISIT AT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Baton Rouge (April 16, 2007) -- The LSU Health Care Services Division (LSU HCSD) will hold its quarterly site visit at University Medical Center (UMC), 2390 West Congress, Tuesday, April 17, 2007. Media access will be provided from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM. The site visit offers hospital administrators, clinicians, and staff a progress report on hospital performance and disease management.

LSU HCSD has one of the foremost disease management programs in the nation. "Our provision of care has been affected both by the rapid evolution of health care in the past ten years and the huge impact of hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the delivery of this care," Dr. Michael K. Butler, chief medical officer for LSU HCSD, said. "But the high skill level and flexibility of the staffs of LSU hospitals in general and University Medical Center in particular have permitted them to maintain a superior level of care for Louisiana citizens."

The goal of the disease management program is to eliminate or control disease and to keep people healthy and out of the hospital. Each hospital has a team of specialists who administer programs specific for the treatment of asthma, congestive heart failure, diabetes, HIV, chronic kidney disease, and hypertension and for cancer screening and smoking cessation. Each hospital team works under the guidance of the LSU HCSD administration for health care effectiveness to produce the most effective results for each program.

"The disease management program of University Medical Center has made significant strides in the prevention and early intervention of disease," said Dr. Butler. "In fact, University Medical Center has established a new chronic disease management clinic and has achieved remarkable success with it," he said.

The site visit will examine specific areas of the UMC disease management program: renal beginnings, pre-operative glycemic control, foot screening, improving HIV care, pharmacy remodeling, ophthalmology results, acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, pneumonia, emergency wait time, improvement initiative for oncology clinic patient flow, and a progress report on the Leadership Academy Project.

Besides addressing hospital staff on the progress of UMC, Dr. Butler will present a progress report on UMC to community and regional stakeholders.

For more information, contact Marvin McGraw, Director of Communications and Media Relations, at LSU Health Care Services Division, 225.922.1424, mmcgra@lsuhsc.edu.