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**For Immediate Release**

**EKLMC Quickly Transforms Outpatient Facility for Inpatient Use  
LSU Health System Surgical Facility Now Offers Inpatient Services**

**Baton Rouge (September 8, 2008)** – Earl K. Long Medical Center (EKLMC) has quickly transformed its outpatient LSU Health System Surgical Facility, at 9032 Perkins Road, in Baton Rouge, into an inpatient facility while the EKLMC main campus receives repair for damages from Hurricane Gustav.

EKLMC staff had two challenges and met both within 36 hours: the transformation of the facility from outpatient to inpatient use and passing the inspections of the Department of Health and Hospitals, the Office of Public Health, and the state fire marshall. All three have given the facility the green light for inpatient services.

“Our staff never stopped in their modification of the ambulatory facility for inpatient services,” said Dr. Kathy Viator, acting EKLMC hospital administrator. “Their dedication to their patients and to LSU is immeasurable. They bleed purple and gold.”

EKLMC also stepped up to the plate for graduate medical education. In fulfillment of its mission of medical education, EKLMC continues to provide medical training at this facility as well as at EKLMC. The facility is being used for clinical education of residents, nursing, and allied health students and has office space and conference space for this training.

The Perkins Road facility, which operated before the storm as an ambulatory surgical and diagnostic center, has 62 medical/surgical beds and five ICU beds. Before the storm, EKLMC had 85 medical/surgical beds and 14 ICU beds.

The 49,641 square-foot facility and accompanying 7,000 square foot office building were readily adaptable for inpatient use. The facility has four surgical suites and two procedure rooms. It has a full radiology department with MRI and CT.

It has a fully equipped endoscopic training lab with anatomic models for surgical resident training. The surgical residency chief operates and oversees the lab.

The facility is on a bus line and near I-10 for easy access for residents of the region.

EKLMC has a 24-hour hotline for patient and employee information: (225) 358-4829.

All EKLMC clinics have expanded hours. They are open 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The main campus of EKLMC, at 5825 Airline Highway, continues to offer the following limited services:

- The Emergency Department is open for minor illnesses and injuries only.

- The Oncology Infusion Clinic is open. To schedule an appointment, call (225) 358-3914.
- The Retail Pharmacy for LSU patients only is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- The EKLMC Primary Care Clinic is open. To schedule an appointment, call (225) 358-1472 or (225) 358-1473.
- EKLMC is providing IV fluids to the thousands of military personnel, National Guard troops, and first responders who experience dehydration during the relief effort.

The LSU Mid-City Clinic is also open with the aforementioned clinic hours, but its pharmacy for LSU patients is open 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

EKLMC medical personnel are also providing critical services in the triage effort at the special needs shelter in the PMAC on the LSU campus.

The LSU Health System Surgical Facility, opened March 27, 2008, for ambulatory surgeries and procedures in the areas of adult and pediatric otorhinolaryngology, gynecology, orthopedics, endoscopy, diagnostic radiology and general surgery.

LSU completed the purchase of the facility from Dynacq Healthcare Inc. on December 17, 2007, for \$17,600,000. The purchase included the two buildings, all furniture, beds, monitors, and ancillary equipment. LSU purchased the radiology equipment separately.

The LSU Health System Health Care Services Division is one of the largest public health care delivery systems in the country. It has over 31,000 admissions, 180,000 patient days, 981,000 outpatient visits, and over 270,000 emergency department visits. Each year 1100 residents and fellows from the LSU and Tulane Schools of Medicine and Ochsner Health System and 2,200 nurses and allied health students from many colleges and universities are trained in LSU facilities.

LSU is the largest single provider of uncompensated inpatient care in Louisiana. LSU HCSD hospitals have an economic impact of over \$1.4 billion in asset business activity, \$568 million in personal earnings, and generate over 12,000 jobs.

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