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**Earl K. Long Medical Center Reopens After Storm Repairs
Post-Gustav, Staff Quickly Adapted to Provide Inpatient Services**

Baton Rouge (October 3, 2008) – The Earl K. Long Medical Center (EKLMC) reopens today, Friday, October 3, 2008. The LSU hospital at 5825 Airline Highway has installed a new transformer after Hurricane Gustav damaged beyond repair the one in place and left the hospital with no air conditioning.

All approvals to reoccupy the hospital were obtained from the Office of Public Health (OPH), Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), and the State Fire Marshall's office.

The hospital is admitting patients for medical/surgical needs, obstetrics, labor and delivery, NICU, newborn nursery, and postpartum services.

The ER is back in full force and now accepting all patients for treatment. The Department of Medicine is admitting patients who require inpatient services to the hospital from the ER and its outpatient clinics.

The hospital's Operating Room is completing emergency surgeries as well as scheduled routine cases.

EKLMC staff is shifting services from the LSU Health System Surgical Center, at 9032 Perkins Road, to the Airline Highway campus. The Perkins Road facility will maintain 62 inpatient beds and 8 ICU beds, giving EKLMC a total of 183 licensed beds.

Clinic operating hours will continue from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Saturday hours were added post- storm to meet the need of expanded access for patients.

The Patient Help Line—(225) 358-4829— will continue to assist patients in navigating through health care services.

The strength of the LSU Health Care Services Division (HCSD) was never more obvious than during the Labor Day weekend when Hurricane Gustav cut a swath up the middle of Louisiana, knocking out power to tens of thousands of homes and businesses, including EKLMC.

EKLMC initially received patients from coastal LSU hospitals, serving as a safe haven until the storm passed. When EKLMC lost power, EKLMC and HCSD quickly modified the patient evacuation plan and sent patients to the hurricane-strengthened Interim LSU Public Hospital in New Orleans, which had power and a staff of nearly 600, including 83 physicians. Other sister hospitals such as LSU Shreveport, University Medical Center in Lafayette, and Huey P. Long in Pineville accepted patients as well.

EKLMC employees rose to the occasion to re-establish health care services by quickly transforming its outpatient Perkins Road campus into an inpatient facility with

62 medical/surgical beds and 8 ICU beds. The transformation and successful inspections from DHH, OPH, and the State Fire Marshall occurred within 36 hours, an astonishingly short period for such a major task.

“Our staff went far beyond the call of duty,” said Dr. Kathy Viator, EKLMC acting hospital administrator. “Many had damage to their homes from the storm, but they worked tirelessly to get our inpatient services back on line.”

For this rapid reshuffling of services, EKLMC cross-trained staff to meet the restructured demands to continue urgent care services at EKLMC and relocate clinics to the Mid-City location.

“Every effort was made to ensure that Graduate Medical Education continued without disruption,” said Dr. Viator. “Classroom space and clinical opportunities for our residency programs were a priority focus.”

Dr. Christine Cassel, president and CEO of the American Board of Internal Medicine, acknowledged the vital role that the EKLMC Internal Medicine Residency Program filled in providing medical support during and after the storm. She also praised the speed with which EKLMC restored its educational mission during this difficult time as well as the efforts of EKLMC medical staff and residents at the medical special needs shelter on the LSU campus, where despite the upheaval at EKLMC, Dr. Angie Johnson served as medical director. The shelter was staffed by LSU EKLMC faculty, residents, nurses, respiratory therapists, and other health professionals from the community.

Post-Gustav EKLMC quickly reopened clinics in primary care, arthritis, cardiology, endocrinology, hepatology, oncology, renal, GI, pulmonary, neurology, allergy, orthopedics, ENT, general surgery, early intervention, pediatrics, ophthalmology, asthma, and OB/GYN.

Because of storm damage, the Emergency Department at Airline Highway was open for minor illnesses and injuries only. The hospital also supported National Guard troops by sending IV fluids to military personnel and first responders who experienced dehydration during the relief effort.

The storm did not damage the University Hospital North Baton Rouge Clinic, which is under construction. That clinic is slated to open March 2, 2009.

Although EKLMC has reopened, the stresses of delivering twenty-first century medicine in a forty-year-old building became more obvious in a post-Gustav Baton Rouge, underscoring the need for the new LSU hospital for the Baton Rouge region.

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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