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LSU BOGALUSA MEDICAL CENTER RESPIRATORY THERAPY DEPARTMENT

RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Baton Rouge (April 29, 2009) – The LSU Bogalusa Medical Center (LSU BMC) Respiratory Therapy Department has earned Quality Respiratory Care Recognition (QRCR) from the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC). The QRCR designation ensures quality respiratory care in a hospital and helps patients and families make informed decisions about the quality of the respiratory care services available at the institution of their choice.

“This recognition is another example of our staff’s superior skills and dedication to their profession and, above all, their commitment to providing the best possible health care to our patients,” said Kurt Scott, LSU BMC hospital administrator.

About 700 hospitals in the United States, or approximately 15 percent, have received the QRCR designation, which places LSU BMC among the elite for respiratory care in the nation, reflecting the high level of respiratory expertise at LSU BMC.

“Our department is in the top tier of respiratory care in the nation,” said Brandy Barnwell, RRT, LSU BMC respiratory care supervisor. “We’re also the only hospital in the region with this recognition, which assures patients and their families that our care is quality care.”

The LSU BMC respiratory medical director is Lee Roy Joyner, MD.

In 2003 the AARC began awarding QRCR status to help consumers identify facilities using qualified respiratory therapists for respiratory care. The AARC is a membership organization representing more than 46,000 health professionals in the field of respiratory care nationwide. Hospitals earning the QRCR designation ensure patient safety by agreeing to adhere to a strict set of criteria governing their respiratory care services.

Criteria for QRCR include the following: all respiratory therapists in the facility hold certified respiratory therapist (CRT) or registered respiratory therapist (RRT) credentials or are legally recognized by the state as competent to provide respiratory care services; respiratory therapists are available twenty-four hours of the day; other personnel qualified to perform specific respiratory procedures and the amount of supervision required for personnel to carry out specific procedures must be designated in writing;

and a doctor of medicine or osteopathy is designated as medical director of respiratory care services.

QRQR designated hospitals provide a level of respiratory care consistent with national standards. A list of QRQR hospitals is available at the AARC website, YourLungHealth.org.

Respiratory therapists are specially trained health care professionals who work under physician's orders to provide a wide range of breathing treatments and other services to patients with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, lung cancer, AIDS, and other lung or lung-related conditions. They care for premature infants and are key members of lifesaving rapid response teams in medical emergencies.

The LSU Health System - Health Care Services Division is one of the largest public health care delivery systems in the country. It has over 35,000 inpatient admissions, nearly 196,000 inpatient days, 515,500 outpatient visits, 894,000 outpatient encounters, and nearly 244,000 emergency department visits. Each year nearly 500 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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