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### **Ephrata Community Hospital awarded accreditation from the Joint Commission**

By demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety, Ephrata Community Hospital has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™.

"We sought accreditation for our organization because we want to demonstrate our commitment to patients' safety and quality care," says John M. Porter, Jr., President and CEO. "We view obtaining Joint Commission accreditation as another step toward achieving excellence."

"Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care," says Mark Pelletier, R.N., M.S., executive director, Hospital Programs, Accreditation and Certification Services, The Joint Commission. "The community should be proud that Ephrata Community Hospital is focusing on the most challenging goal -- to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels."

The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of Ephrata Community Hospital in September 2009, and recently received formal acknowledgement of the accreditation. The accreditation award recognizes Ephrata Community Hospital's dedication to complying with the Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards on a continuous basis.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public through the provision of health care accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 8,000 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,800 other health care organizations that provide long term care, assisted living, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission also accredits health plans, integrated delivery networks, and other managed care entities. In addition, The Joint Commission provides certification of disease-specific care programs, primary stroke centers, and health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

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Porter spoke of his pride in a staff whose members ask what needs to be done to be accredited by The Joint Commission. "In addition, they appreciate the educational aspect of the survey and the opportunity to interact with the team of surveyors." He called the accreditation, "proof of an organization-wide commitment to provide quality care on an ongoing basis."

Ephrata Community Hospital has served the health needs of northern Lancaster County residents for 70 years. A nonprofit organization, Ephrata offers care at the hospital as well as in many outpatient locations across the community.