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**Verdugo Hills Hospital Awarded Re-Accreditation**  
**From Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations**

(GLENDALE, CA – August 15, 2005) — Verdugo Hills Hospital has earned the maximum three-year re-accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the national organization that surveys hospitals for high standards in quality, safety, and clinical excellence.

During its four-day on-site review of the hospital, the Joint Commission survey team reviewed the hospital's medical practices, labs, patient care practices, records, and staffing patterns as well as life and building safety and security. All totaled, the Joint Commission reviewed 250 standards that encompassed more than 500 elements of performance during their visit earlier this month.

"I am very proud of everyone's performance not only during this intense survey but throughout the year that resulted in this confirmation of the quality care rendered by our staff," said Leonard LaBella, hospital president and CEO. "High-quality patient care is at the core of everything we do here, and re-accreditation is evidence of our ongoing commitment to this objective."

Founded in 1951, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations 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 8,200 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. An independent, not-for-profit organization, the Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care.

*(More)*

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada. The hospital features all private rooms, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, freestanding hospital in the greater foothills community and was voted the “Foothills’ Best” hospital by the readers of the *Glendale News-Press* and *Foothill Leader* for the past two years.

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