



Verdugo Hills  
HOSPITAL

# News

For Immediate Release

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**New State-of-the-Art MRI System at VHH  
Offers Higher Level of Patient Care**

(GLENDALE, CA – December 5, 2008) – Verdugo Hills Hospital has upgraded its high-field MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) capabilities to the advanced GE Signa Excite short bore magnet, offering higher quality MRI imaging and enhanced patient care. A key feature of this new scanner is its open architecture, which is less confining for those patients who feel claustrophobic in MRI scanners. This system also optimizes neurological, muscular and skeletal imaging capability.

“This is a system that will be fully compatible with advanced coil technology upgrades in the future,” said MRI/CT technologist Kim Peppard, RT, who has 22 years of experience in medical imaging. “With this system, we feel that we can compete with any of the magnetic resonance scan systems in the area in terms of speed and image quality.”

“This new scanner brings a higher level of patient care, and has the ability to diagnose different types of pathologies and a variety of diseases, such as stroke, cancer and multiple sclerosis,” said Peppard.

Rey Bayan, MRI technologist at VHH with 26 years of service at the hospital, said VHH has kept up with advances in medical technology. “We truly have outstanding medical equipment throughout our Radiology Department, and the Hospital has been that way for a long time,” said Bayan.

VHH’s MRI technologists, Peppard, Bayan and Paul Austria, go the extra mile to maintain communication with the patient throughout the exam process.

“Once the patient is in the magnet, we can still communicate with them even during the exam,” said Bayan. “We are in constant communication with them so they don’t feel alone.”

“Our patients tell us that we do an exceptional job and they really appreciate the level of care we provide here,” said Peppard. “The imaging technology is important, but the level of care is equally important.”

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**About the Hospital:**

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. Hospital features include emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Foothills’ Best Hospital” for 2008 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press* for the fifth consecutive year. For more information, please visit [www.vhhospital.org](http://www.vhhospital.org). For more information about funding initiatives or to support the hospital, please call the Foundation at 818.952.2226.

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