



Media Contact: Pamela Garrestson
pamela.garrestson@atlanticealth.org
973-971-4932

Atlantic Health
P.O. Box 1905
Morristown, NJ 07962-1905

For Immediate Release

New Dedicated Helicopter Service at Atlantic Health System Brings NJ Patients Faster Access to Specialized Care

MORRISTOWN, NJ MARCH 1, 2006 - Atlantic Health System today announced the arrival of Air One, a new helicopter that allows Atlantic Health to transport patients with medical emergencies so they can quickly receive the most comprehensive care for their needs. Atlantic Health is the first hospital system in the state with its own helicopter, as all other hospitals rely on the state police for air transport. Air One (a Eurocopter 135) is provided through PHI, and was unveiled on March 1 at Morristown Memorial Hospital.

With its own helicopter, Atlantic Health can provide the quickest transportation available to Morristown Memorial Hospital, a regional trauma center, or to the closest appropriate facility. In addition to responding to trauma cases, Atlantic's chopper also will provide inter-hospital transport throughout Northern New Jersey, where more than 50 hospitals serve more than 4.5 million people. Hospitals with patients who require specialized treatment for cardiac care, neuro emergencies, pediatrics, or high-risk labor and delivery often are transferred to Morristown Memorial Hospital from elsewhere in the state. The helicopter can travel as far as Boston or Baltimore to take patients to medical facilities with more specialized services.

"We are committed to being on the forefront of technology. That means not only diagnostics and treatment, but also transport," said Joseph A. Trunfio, president and CEO of Atlantic Health System. "Whether a patient requires intensive care for a premature baby or fast response for stroke or heart attack, Atlantic Ambulance's helicopter will be there to safely and efficiently get patients to the best possible care. Morristown Memorial Hospital saw nearly 68,000 patients in the emergency department last year, and that number continues to rise."

Fifteen Atlantic Health employees — eight paramedics and seven nurses — have

been specially trained to respond to emergent situations and care for patients in the helicopter. When their services are not needed for a call, they will rotate through the most critical units of Morristown Memorial to continue sharpening the skills they need while in the air or at an accident scene.

"Atlantic Ambulance's helicopter will provide life-saving efficiency in transporting patients more quickly to the extensive, specialized care provided at Morristown Memorial Hospital and Atlantic Health System," said Joanne Conroy, MD, executive vice president, Atlantic Health System, and chief operating officer, Morristown Memorial Hospital.

"Wider use of seatbelts and airbags mean victims survive once-deadly traffic accidents and require extensive care," said

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THE PASSION TO LEAD

Sol Nevins, medical director, Atlantic Ambulance, and an emergency physician at Morristown Memorial Hospital. “An aging population and advanced medical technology means more immediate treatment of stroke and heart attack. The helicopter adds another level to Atlantic Ambulance’s response to these growing needs.”

PHI, which provides the helicopter, pilots, mechanics and fuel, was selected for its outstanding safety record. The company boasts the best safety record in the industry – nearly tenfold better than the national average – and flies more hours than any other provider of private helicopters.

Atlantic Health System (www.atlantichealth.org) is one of the largest non-profit health care systems in New Jersey and includes Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital in Summit, and Mountainside Hospital in Montclair/Glen Ridge. The three hospitals have a combined total of 1,585 licensed beds and 2,600 affiliated physicians providing a wide array of health care services to the five million residents of 11 Northern and Central New Jersey counties. Specialty services include cardiovascular care, neurosciences, pediatrics, cancer care; orthopedics, diabetes care, gastroenterology, trauma and emergency medicine, behavioral health, minimally invasive surgery radiology and advanced diagnostics, women’s health and maternal fetal medicine, home and hospice care and rehabilitation services. Atlantic Health maintains a partnership with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

Atlantic Health System’s hospitals are accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Atlantic Health offers graduate medical education programs through a clinical affiliation with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ).

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