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For Immediate Release

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

THE NEW OVERLOOK HOSPITAL EMERGENCY SERVICES – UNION CAMPUS

SUMMIT, NJ September, 2007 – Starting on October 1, 2007, Atlantic Health's Overlook Hospital will begin operating emergency medical care in Union as a free-standing Emergency Services department on the former site of Union Hospital.

The following are some Frequently Asked Questions with Answers to help you better understand the level of clinical care provided at the new **Overlook Hospital Emergency Services - Union Campus**.

Q: WHAT IS A FREE-STANDING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT?

A: A free-standing, or satellite, emergency department is a facility that usually is not physically connected to a hospital, but has all the necessary personnel and emergency equipment needed to run the equivalent of a hospital emergency department.

Although the new **Overlook Hospital Emergency Services - Union Campus** will be housed in a portion of the existing structure of the former Union Hospital, the facility will be limited to caring for patients' emergency needs only, which includes radiology and laboratory services.

Q: ARE FREE-STANDING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS A NEW CONCEPT?

A: No. Free-standing "ER"s have been in use since the early 1970s, when there was a need for urgent care in areas that do not have hospitals that are readily accessible.

Q: WHAT WILL BE IN OVERLOOK'S NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES IN UNION?

A: The new Overlook Emergency Services in Union will include:

- 15 patient beds.
- Short-term care for patients who require diagnostic observation, treatment and follow-up, but who do not require admission to a hospital.
- Waiting areas for families during care and treatment.
- X-ray, ultrasound, and CT-scan diagnostic services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- On-site laboratory services for emergency department patients.

(more)

Q: WHAT KINDS OF PATIENTS WILL BE CARED FOR AT THE NEW OVERLOOK EMERGENCY SERVICES IN UNION?

A: As with an emergency department in a hospital, the new Overlook Emergency Services in Union will be open 24 hours a day to treat patients with problems requiring immediate and specialized attention.

Q: WHAT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AT THE NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT?

A: A number of services will not be located at the Union site, but will be available at nearby Overlook Hospital in Summit. They will include cancer care services such as radiation therapy and CyberKnife stereostatic radiosurgery, comprehensive stroke care, maternity services, as well as emergency services for psychiatric patients and patients in labor.

Patients needing hospitalization will be transported to nearby Overlook Hospital. Patients who are transferred to Overlook will bypass Overlook’s own emergency department and will be directly admitted to the hospital. Overlook Emergency Services in Union will also include on-site, fully equipped medical transportation.

Q: WILL ATLANTIC HEALTH MAINTAIN ACUTE CARE BEDS AT UNION HOSPITAL?

A: No. However, Atlantic Health has *increased* its acute care capacity at Overlook Hospital in Summit to accommodate patients formerly cared for at Union Hospital, now that it has closed. Acute care refers to inpatient beds for surgical, medically complex, critical care or labor & delivery patients who are expected to stay for more than 24 hours. Our intention is to provide families in the community with a high quality, patient-centered satellite emergency department.

Q: WHO WILL BE RUNNING OVERLOOK EMERGENCY SERVICES – UNION CAMPUS?

A: The new ED will include approximately 75 staff members, including board-certified emergency physicians, registered nurses experienced and trained in emergency care, emergency department technicians and clerical support staff, required to care for emergency department patients.

Q: CAN I EXPECT A CHANGE IN SERVICE OR WAITING TIME?

A: The new Overlook Hospital Emergency Services – Union Campus will be a completely functional emergency department, including radiology and lab services and will be able to provide patients with high-quality service in a comparable or faster period of time in their local community.

Q: WHERE IS THE NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT LOCATED?

A: At the site of the former Union Hospital.

The address and phone number are:

Overlook Hospital Emergency Services – Union Campus, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union, New Jersey 07083.
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