For Immediate Release

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS RE-VERIFIES MORRISTOWN MEMORIAL AS TOP TRAUMA CENTER

MORRISTOWN, NJ, September 27, 2006 – The trauma center at Morristown Memorial Hospital, part of Atlantic Health, has been re-verified as a Level I trauma center by the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. This considerable achievement recognizes the trauma center’s dedication to providing the highest level of care for injured patients.

Although Morristown Memorial has earned this status from the American College of Surgeons, the New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services maintains Morristown Memorial’s designation as a Level II trauma center. The state only designates university hospitals as Level I trauma centers. There are three in New Jersey.

To earn the prestigious American College of Surgeons re-verification, Morristown Memorial demonstrated its commitment to providing and maintaining top quality care and research. Felix Garcia, MD, director of trauma services for Morristown Memorial, said the designation recognizes a commitment not only to providing the best in patient care and injury prevention, but also to researching and training in the latest diagnostic tools and treatment technology.

“As a hospital and healthcare system, we have made a commitment to foster trauma care,” Garcia said. “Whether a patient is transported by ambulance or by helicopter, we have a team of trauma surgeons and board-certified subspecialists immediately available. Morristown Memorial has set a very high standard of care, and we are always trying to meet and exceed that standard for our critically injured patients. The trauma center is care waiting for patients.”

Morristown Memorial’s trauma team consists of six full-time trauma surgeons who are all board-certified in critical care. A trauma surgeon is always at Morristown Memorial, 24 hours a day, every day.

Verified trauma centers must meet the essential criteria that ensure trauma care capability and institutional performance, as outlined by the American College of Surgeons’ Committee on Trauma in its current “Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient” manual. Each hospital has an on-site review by a team of experienced trauma surgeons to determine trauma center verification.

The ACS Committee on Trauma’s verification program does not designate trauma centers. Rather, the program provides a confirmation that a trauma center has demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest quality trauma care for all injured patients.

“A growing population means more cars on the road, and wider use of seatbelts means that victims are surviving more accidents, but require more critical care,” said Rolando Rolandelli, MD, chairman of the department of surgery, Morristown
Memorial. “Whether the patient is an adult, child, or infant, we have trauma surgeons and specialists in place to immediately respond.”

The number of trauma incidents at Morristown Memorial has increased by 10 percent this year compared to 2005.

A new addition to Morristown Memorial’s trauma team is Air One, a helicopter that allows Atlantic Health to transport patients with medical emergencies so they can quickly receive the most comprehensive care for their needs. With its own helicopter, Atlantic Health provides the quickest transportation available to Morristown Memorial, or to the closest appropriate facility. In addition to responding to trauma cases as a backup to the state police helicopter, Atlantic’s chopper also provides inter-hospital transport throughout Northern New Jersey, where more than 50 hospitals serve more than 4.5 million people.

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Part of Atlantic Health, www.atlantichealth.org, Morristown Memorial is a non-profit 642-licensed-bed hospital in Morristown, New Jersey. A clinical affiliate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School, Morristown Memorial’s specialties include cardiology and cardiac surgery, adult and pediatric oncology, critical and emergency care and inpatient rehabilitation and neonatal intensive care services. Morristown Memorial is also a Level II Regional Trauma Center, a Level III Regional Perinatal Center and a Regional Pediatric Center. Other services include the Goryeb Children’s Hospital, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, North Jersey Regional Arthritis Center, Wound Care Center®, Sleep Disorder Center, Hyperbaric Medicine Program, Diabetes Center, Valerie Fund Center (pediatric oncology cancer program), Photopheresis Center, Atlantic Mind Body Center, Atlantic Behavioral Health, Atlantic Rehabilitation Institute, and Atlantic Home Care and Hospice. The hospital is the largest employer in Morristown, the second largest employer in Morris County, and is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). Morristown Memorial earned the 2005 Consumer Choice Award from National Research Corporation and is designated as a Magnet Hospital for Excellence in Nursing Service – the highest level of recognition by American Nurses Credentialing Center available to facilities that provide excellent acute care services.

Atlantic Health, one of the largest non-profit health care systems in New Jersey, includes Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital in Summit, and Mountainside Hospital in Montclair/Glen Ridge.