For Immediate Release

OVERLOOK HOSPITAL TO LAUNCH EMERGENCY SERVICES IN UNION

SUMMIT, NJ September, 2007 – Starting on October 1, Atlantic Health’s Overlook Hospital will provide emergency care in a free-standing emergency services department on the site of the former Union Hospital in Union, NJ. Overlook Hospital Emergency Services - Union Campus, will enable the area to continue to have needed, urgent care by bringing the resources of Overlook Hospital in Summit to nearby Union.

Saint Barnabas Health Care System (SBHCS) is scheduled to close Union Hospital on October 1, and Atlantic Health agreed in August to establish Overlook Emergency Services in a portion of the former hospital facility. Overlook and SBHCS are working together to facilitate a seamless transition that will provide uninterrupted emergency care to the community. Saint Barnabas will continue to look for other uses for the rest of the building.

Overlook Hospital will operate satellite emergency services with 15 beds that will be limited to emergency care, including radiology and laboratory services needed for urgent care.

Free-standing facilities such as the new Overlook Hospital Emergency Services – Union Campus, have been used for more than three decades to provide limited, needed services to areas without readily-accessible hospitals.

“Atlantic Health’s transformation of part of the former Union Hospital building into a satellite emergency department demonstrates its commitment to providing quality care for the residents of Union and surrounding communities and the need to adapt to fulfill that commitment,” said Alan Lieber, vice president of Atlantic Health and chief operating officer of Overlook Hospital.

Senator Raymond Lesniak, Assemblyman Joseph Cryan and Assemblyman Neil Cohen were instrumental in making this transition a reality for the residents of Union.

Overlook Hospital, which has more than 1,200 physicians and an annual admission of nearly 20,000 patients, is the State’s first designated Comprehensive Stroke Center. The hospital recently completed a new $15 million adult and pediatric emergency department at its site in Summit that more than doubled its space and number of beds, and added features to ease the experience for both patients and their families. Overlook Hospital’s Emergency Department has approximately 45,000 patient visits each year, with an increase in cases the past few months.

(more)
“Building on the recent enhancements to Overlook’s emergency care in Summit, we are looking forward to bringing those high quality resources to Overlook’s new satellite emergency services at our new facility in Union,” said Mary Pat Sullivan, RN, Chief Nursing Officer for Overlook.

Patients requiring hospitalization will be transported to Overlook Hospital by on-site fully equipped medical transportation. The majority of patients, who are transferred to Overlook in Summit, will bypass the hospital based emergency department and will be directly admitted to a patient floor at Overlook Hospital.

Overlook Hospital Emergency Services – Union Campus
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Part of Atlantic Health, atlantichospital.org, Overlook Hospital is a 504-bed not-for-profit community teaching hospital located in Summit, NJ with more than 1,200 attending physicians. Overlook provides adult and pediatric emergency care, with specialties in emergency cardiac angioplasty and stroke response. Overlook’s Neuroscience Institute is the State’s leader in stroke and brain tumor treatments as the leading provider of the revolutionary Merci® Retriever and CyberKnife®. Overlook Hospital has a designated Comprehensive Stroke Center, a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence, a Minimally Invasive Surgery Program, and Comprehensive Cancer Center and Breast Center. Other areas of expertise include dedicated centers for concussion management, epilepsy and brain tumors, pain management, wound healing and hyperbaric medicine. Overlook offers state-of-the-art maternity and baby services, with private, customized care and a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit staffed with the largest pediatric surgery group in New Jersey. Overlook Hospital is accredited by The Joint Commission. Atlantic Health is the primary academic and clinical affiliate in New Jersey of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and The Mount Sinai Hospital.

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