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Tobacco-Free Policy Takes Effect in 30 Days *New Policy Will Prohibit Tobacco Use on Hospital Property*

CRANSTON, R.I. – October 21, 2008 – The Hospital Association of Rhode Island’s tobacco-free hospital campus initiative will take effect in 30 days. Under the program, hospitals from throughout Rhode Island will establish tobacco-free campuses effective November 20 (The Great American Smokeout). The new policy will prohibit the use of tobacco on hospital property.

Nine hospitals (Landmark Medical Center, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, The Miriam Hospital, Newport Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital, Roger Williams Medical Center, St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island, South County Hospital and The Westerly Hospital) have joined together to improve the patient experience.

“Hospitals are excited to take this next important step in improving health in Rhode Island,” said Edward J. Quinlan, president. “This new policy will enhance the safe, clean, healthy environment expected from patients, staff and visitors.”

Hospitals have been supported in their effort by the American Cancer Society, the Rhode Island Department of Health and Jenn Lee Design.

Founded over a half century ago, the Hospital Association of Rhode Island is a statewide organization that assists member hospitals in effectively meeting the health care needs of Rhode Island, through advocacy, representation, education and services. HARI members work collaboratively to improve the quality of care delivered and address issues threatening access to health care including increasing health costs, workforce shortages and decreasing reimbursement. HARI members work together to ensure that all Rhode Islanders will receive comprehensive, high quality health care.

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