

## **Radiology Recognition**

Twice in recent months, the radiology department at Lawrence County Memorial Hospital has been recognized by national organizations.

On the heels of receiving American College of Radiology accreditation for Mammography in February, the hospital passed a Mammography Quality Standards Act inspection this month, with no deficiencies.

The results were pleasing to Lindsey Culver, head of the hospital's radiology department.

"I feel we provide the best care for our patients and passing both the ACR and MQSA shows the level of care we provide," said Culver. "Our staff is highly trained and passionate about their patients and the quality of work. We shoot for excellence and achieve that."

Don Robbins, CEO at the hospital, says that the accolades are a testament to the department's "due diligence in making sure that everything is done correctly."

"It says that our patients are ultimately going to get the highest level of care that you could possibly expect anywhere," he said. "Any time you get a deficiency-free survey like that, it's a big deal, and we want to celebrate that and make the public aware."

LCMH has recently expanded the Mammography schedule. As always Mammogram appointments are available each Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon, along with the fourth Saturday of every month. In addition, appointments are now available every other Monday afternoon.

Culver says the Saturday appointments have proven to be popular for those who work during the week.

"It's been a big success," she said. "We're now screening roughly 12 to 15 women on average on these Saturdays."

The Mammography Quality Standards Act requires facilities to meet uniform quality standards. Passed by the U.S. Congress in 1992, the law assures high-quality mammography for early breast cancer detection. Under the law, all mammography facilities must be accredited by a Food and Drug Administration-approved accreditation body, be certified by the FDA or its state, undergo an MQSA inspection and prominently display the certificate issued by the agency.

The accreditation from the ACR is for three years as the result of the recent review.

According to the ACR, its gold seal of accreditation represents the highest level of image quality and patient safety. It is awarded only to facilities meeting ACR Practice Parameters and Technical Standards after a peer-review evaluation by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. Image quality, personnel qualifications, adequacy of facility equipment, quality control procedures

and quality assurance programs are assessed. The findings are reported to the ACR Committee on Accreditation, which subsequently provides the practice with a comprehensive report that can be used for continuous practice improvement.

Founded in 1924, the ACR is a professional medical society dedicated to serving patients and society by empowering radiology professionals to advance the practice, science and professions of radiological care. The college serves more than 37,000 diagnostic/interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians and medical physicists with programs focusing on the practice of medical imaging and radiation oncology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services.