

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Amanda Dow
(864) 898-1252
adow@cmhsc.org

Cannon Memorial Hospital First in the State to Receive Accreditation by DNV

Pickens, SC- Cannon Memorial Hospital in Pickens, SC is the first hospital in South Carolina to receive accreditation by the newest organization with deeming status, Det Norske Veritas (DNV). DNV Healthcare was approved by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as a deemed status accreditation program for hospitals in the fall of 2008, after working through a strict application process to meet CMS' evaluation criteria. The only other alternative accreditation programs for hospitals are The Joint Commission and The American Osteopathic Association's Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program.

Cannon has been accredited by The Joint Commission for the past 36 years, but chose to change its accreditation after learning of DNV's infrastructure and alignment with the ISO 9001 standard and the heightened quality of patient care associated with the implementation of that standard. "We continuously look for ways to improve our hospital and the services we offer and choosing to go through the DNV accreditation process, I feel, proves our dedication to fulfilling our mission of providing quality healthcare in a safe, competent and compassionate manner," stated Norman Rentz, CEO of Cannon Memorial Hospital. "It's an added excitement to be the first hospital in the state to charter these waters."

DNV's accreditation program follows the National Integrated Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (NIAHO) standards which are based on the CMS Conditions of Participation and the ISO 9001 standard, the internationally recognized standard for quality management systems that is used to measure quality and accountability in dozens of industries. DNV also emphasizes the importance of continuous readiness with an annual survey process. "The quality measures that we had to meet through the NIAHO standards are very strict and we were quite pleased with the findings from our recent survey," said Rentz. "We will begin to implement the ISO standard throughout our hospital and will be ISO compliant within 2 years. During that time, I'm confident that this hospital will take the way healthcare is delivered to a new level."

According to the Cincinnati-based DNV Healthcare Inc., there are approximately 13 hospitals in the United States who have completed their deemed survey to date, but Cannon Memorial Hospital is currently the first and only hospital in the State of South Carolina. "DNV's goal is to be the leader in hospital accreditation," said Patrick Horine,

Executive Vice President of Accreditation for DNV Healthcare. “We can’t put a number on it, but we believe we’ll see an exceptional increase in hospitals using our Accreditation service in the coming months. It’s simply a better, more modern approach.”

Cannon Memorial Hospital was established in 1947 and is a 55 bed acute care facility and offers a full-range of state-of-the-art medical technology, equipment, and services including a 24-hour emergency department, critical care unit, outpatient labs, diagnostic testing and surgery, physical therapy, wellness department and inpatient care. For more information visit www.cannonhospital.org.