Eugene City Hospital

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For Immediate Release

**Eugene City Hospital Will Implement New Medicare Guidelines On April 30**

Eugene City Hospital is the first Lane County hospital introduces the new Medicare guidelines. According to the Hospital Administrator, John Mitchell, the new guideline will take effect on Monday, April 30, 2012.

“New guidelines will assure hospital rooms are prepared for patients who need hospitalization”, he said. “No Medicare patients will be denied admission to Eugene City Hospital when medical needed is indicated by attending physician.”

Medicare is a federally funded health care program for U.S. citizens age 65 or older. New Medicare guidelines indicates that the hospital will now examine patients prior to admission. The criteria to be admitted includes determining the severity of illness such as blood lab and vital signs, blood pressure, functional impairment, physical findings, as well as determining the intensity of service such as monitoring, medications and treatment.

For patients who may not meet the criteria, Eugene City Hospital will provide alternative care plans, which are Medicare – Certified home health Care program, Hospice and the Discharge planning service. “We will take care of you, that is what we are doing,” said Kathy Kevrekian, Director of Nursing.

The Oregon Medical Professional Review Organization will monitor Eugene City Hospital for compliance with the new guidelines.

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