

**ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL  
5 MILLION LIVES CAMPAIGN**

**Two-year Program Looks to Reduce Incidents of Medical Harm and Empower  
Patient's Family Members**

**ORANGE, Calif. (August 00, 2007)** – As part of its unwavering commitment to quality health care, St. Joseph Hospital has joined the national 5 Million Lives Campaign by implementing a rapid response Medical Emergency Team and promoting Condition H, a new effort that empowers patients and family members to play a more active role in the care of a hospitalized family member. The 5 Million Lives Campaign is a national effort organized and funded by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) to reduce the incidences of medical harm over a 24-month period. St. Joseph Hospital is the only Orange County hospital participating in the program,.

According to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) there are nearly 15 million incidents of medical harm in the country each year. IHI defines “medical harm” as unintended physical injury resulting from or contributed to by medical care (including the absence of indicated medical treatment) that requires additional monitoring, treatment or hospitalization, or results in death. (Please consult [www.ihl.org](http://www.ihl.org) for a detailed definition of medical harm.)

Comprised of a team of critical care clinicians, St. Joseph Hospital's new rapid Medical Emergency Team attends to patients after a call has been placed by the medical or surgical nurse over a patient's deteriorating condition. In forming a Medical Emergency Team, St. Joseph Hospital hopes to significantly reduce the number of patients transferred into critical care.

As part of the campaign, the hospital will be adopting Condition H, a new program which will allow patients and family members to call for immediate help if they feel adequate attention is not being received or if they become concerned with the patient's condition.

“It is our belief that Condition H will be a great asset in delivering critical care to patients,” said Soudi Bogert, critical care nurse at St. Joseph Hospital. “In involving family members who know the patient better than we do, we will be better able to deliver immediate care and prevent a critical situation. Family members have a more intimate feel about a patient, such as noticing a change in sleeping habits, talking or the ability to move their arms and legs. Condition H will allow us to empower those family members to provide more immediate intervention.”

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