

**FIRST CATHOLIC HOSPITAL IN CALIFORNIA GRANTED PRESTIGIOUS
MAGNET AWARD**

**St. Joseph Hospital of Orange Awarded Magnet Recognition by American
Nurses Credentialing Center**

ORANGE, CA (January 17, 2007) – St. Joseph Hospital of Orange was awarded Magnet status today by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). It is the only Catholic healthcare facility in California and the 231st hospital in the United States to be designated a Magnet facility.

Established in 1994, Magnet designation is the highest level of recognition for organized nursing services in the national and international healthcare communities. The distinction puts St. Joseph Hospital in the top three percent for excellent nursing performance of the nearly 6,000 hospitals nationwide.

To obtain Magnet status, the Nursing Services at St. Joseph Hospital provided extensive documentation demonstrating that they meet rigorous standards in areas such as: professional autonomy throughout the nursing practice, nursing control over its practice environment, effective communications among nurses, physicians, and administrators.

“It is truly an honor to be awarded one of the highest achievements a hospital can attain in the nursing world,” said Larry K. Ainsworth, St. Joseph Hospital president and chief executive officer. “Magnet designation is truly representative of our commitment to clinical excellence and compassionate care.”

In addition, Magnet designation serves to attract top nursing talent during one of the worst nursing shortages in history.

“The prominence of this designation will help us attract and retain the highest caliber of nursing professionals,” said Katie Skelton, vice president of Patient Care Services.

“Although Magnet is one of the highest national awards bestowed on nurses, we couldn’t have done it without the collaboration and support of the entire patient care team and medical staff.”

ANCC uses a comprehensive process of documentation and site evaluation in deciding which health systems will receive designation. Only about 60 percent of hospitals nationwide that complete the lengthy application reporting process are granted site evaluation visits from ANCC Magnet appraisers. Following the elimination stage, Magnet appraisers visit all nursing care areas to evaluate how nurses perform according to indicators that measure qualitative and quantitative factors in the delivery of patient care. Of the select group of health systems who are given site visits, only 3 percent of the nation’s healthcare facilities receive the Magnet designation.

In November 2006, ANCC surveyors visited patient care areas at St. Joseph Hospital to verify accuracy of the hospital’s application. Surveyors interviewed nurses in a formal interview setting. They also reviewed patient records, and questioned physicians, patients, community leaders and other patient care groups about the quality of nursing care.

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