

**ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL TAKES PART IN NATIONAL PROGRAM THAT  
AIMS TO IMPROVE CARE TO SENIORS**

**Program to Help Build Staff Skills That Focus on Health Needs Specific to Older  
Adults**

**ORANGE, Calif.** (January 00, 2008) – St. Joseph Hospital in Orange has announced that it will participate in Nurses Improving Care for Health System Elders (NICHE), a national geriatric nursing program that aims to help hospitals improve and promote patient-centered care for older adults.

A program of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing at New York University College of Nursing, NICHE provides participating hospitals with the assessment tools and curriculum necessary to promote optimal clinical care to hospitalized elderly. NICHE operates in more than 200 active sites in 36 states as well as parts of Canada and the Netherlands.

During the first phase of this commitment, a Nursing team attended the national NICHE Conference to further their education and exposure to research based protocols. They, as well as a Steering Committee, will serve as leaders in helping staff assess and modify their care to better meet the needs of their hospitalized older adult patients

“With the growing population of the hospital’s patients over the age of 65, we feel that NICHE is a great asset in helping us deliver quality care to our older patients while attending to the needs and problems that are specific to that population,” said Kathleen Penzes RNC, MN, Executive Director. “Participation in the program has been

enthusiastically welcomed by our team and we look forward to the positive results that will come from being a part of it.”

Hospitals that have participated and completed NICHE have reported greater patient satisfaction, decreased length of stay for elderly patients, reduction in readmission rates and increases in the length of time between readmission.

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