



Summer 2007

Elizabethtown Community Hospital  
A Not-For-Profit, Charitable Organization

## ECH Wins Quality Award

Elizabethtown Community Hospital has been named as a recipient of this year's "Quality Award." The Quality Awards, given annually by IPRO, New York State's Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, recognize hospitals and other health care providers demonstrating a commitment to improving health care services in the state. "Elizabethtown Community Hospital has shown that a collaborative, focused effort can lead to real improvements in the quality of care delivered to New York's Medicare beneficiaries," says Clare B. Bradley MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, IPRO. "Quality improvement is a complex and time-consuming process, and we thank Elizabethtown Community Hospital for their commitment to the health of New Yorkers."

In conferring the award at IPRO's 23rd Annual Membership Meeting on June 5, Dr. Bradley noted that Elizabethtown Community Hospital received the award because of "their dedication to improving care for Medicare beneficiaries, as reflected in their participation in two IPRO quality improvement projects, their performance rate of 94% (3rd Quarter 2006) on the Appropriate Care Measure project, and their commitment to sharing best practices with other hospitals across the country." The Appropriate Care Measure project is a hospital initiative designed to bring transformational change to health care through the management of three clinical conditions: Acute Myocardial Infarction, Heart Failure and Pneumonia.

"This is an outstanding accomplishment for our Hospital and an excellent reflection of the quality of care and services that we provide to the communities we serve. Part of our vision is to become a Critical Access Hospital model for primary care and this recognition exemplifies our abilities. We are very proud of our staff for their dedication to improving services and maintaining high quality standards." said



Bonnie Bigelow, RN, BSN, Director of Quality, and Victoria Savage, RN, Inpatient Nurse Manager, hold the IPRO Quality Award after receiving it in New York City.

Rod Boula, Hospital Administrator/CEO. IPRO is an independent not-for-profit corporation and one of the largest health care quality improvement and evaluation entities in the United States. Visit [www.ipro.org](http://www.ipro.org) for more information.

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# ECH Expansion Update

Revised architectural plans for the expansion of ECH are now complete. "Our next step is to work with our project manager to finalize construction plans. We are looking at starting in March 2008 at the latest," stated Rod Boula, Hospital Administrator.



Final plans are revised from the original drawings which called for a second story. Due to logistics and costs, the final plan is a one-story expansion giving an additional 10,000 square feet to the hospital. Although plans have altered, results will still bring the benefits that have been outlined:

- Expanded emergency room with improved privacy, confidentiality and family space;
- Better patient flow for added convenience;
- Future cardiac rehabilitation program and chemotherapy services;

- Mobile units to provide nuclear medicine, MRI and PET scanning to aid in cancer detection;
- An expanded inpatient rehabilitation program;
- And much more.

"We will be holding an open house in October to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Hospital at its Park Street address. I encourage everyone to come learn about these exciting changes to improve healthcare in your community," said Boula.

## Specialty Clinic Calendar

Cardiology	Joel Wolkowicz, M.D.	Sept 17
Dietary Consults	Dottie Wehneau	as requested
Gastroenterology	Eugene Cassone, M.D.	Sept 5, 19, 26
Nephrology	Ronald Malseptic, M.D.	Sept 11, 18, 25
	Craig Hurwitz, M.D.	No clinic
Neurology	Karen LeComte, M.D.	Sept 7
OB/GYN	Dane Larsen, MD	Sept 12
OB/GYN	Caroline Hamel, M.D.	Sept 10, 24
Oncology	Jan Duus, M.D.	Sept 6, 20
Ophthalmology	Dennis Lu	No clinic
Orthopedic	Eugene Byrne, M.D.	Sept 13
Orthopedic	Thomas Kneifel, MD	No clinic
Pulmonary	Sabieli Kabeli, MD	No clinic
Surgery	Michael Hill, M.D.	Sept 21
Surgery	Bijoy Sarmaroy, M.D.	Sept 4, 18
Urology	John Banko, M.D.	Sept 10
Vascular/Thoracic	Claude Roland, M.D.	Sept 14

Appointments may be made by calling 873-6377 Monday through Friday 8:00 A.M. - 3:30P.M. Specialty Clinic Calendars are published monthly. Watch the Valley News or Time of Ti or visit [www.ech.org](http://www.ech.org) for the October and November calendars.

## No More Facility Charge

There will no longer be a 'facility charge' for patients coming to a specialty clinic at Elizabethtown Community Hospital for an office visit.

ECH holds specialty clinics on a monthly or as needed basis in order to save patients the time, cost and inconvenience of traveling out of the area to their physician's office. Patients who choose to have an office visit with their physician at ECH will no longer have to pay a facility fee for that visit.

Specialty clinics held at the Hospital are:

- Cardiology
- Gastroenterology
- Nephrology
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Pulmonology
- Surgery
- Urology

For further information, please call 873-6377.

## Auxiliary Awards 2nd Annual Scholarship

The Elizabethtown Community Hospital Auxiliary is proud to announce that Angela Simard, L.P.N. is the winner of the second annual Elizabethtown Community Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship.

Angela Simard, is a Licensed Practical Nurse at Elizabethtown Community Hospital and is attending North Country College of Essex & Franklin full-time to become a Registered Nurse. Ms. Simard lives in Mineville, New York, and plans to graduate in the spring of 2008.

This is the second award of an annual \$500 scholarship established by the ECH Auxiliary. Scholarship guidelines specify that applicants must be full-time students in an accredited college or program and be pursuing a licensed or certified medical

profession. Additionally, applicants must be an employee at ECH or an immediate family member of an employee. Those who are volunteers at ECH or who are employees at Horace Nye Home or The Neighborhood House are also eligible to apply. The Auxiliary Scholarship Program recognizes the national and regional need for qualified medical professionals as well as the difficulty that returning students, especially working single parents, have funding a college education.

The ECH Auxiliary consists of a dedicated group of Essex County residents committed to their local hospital. Since 1946, the group has raised funds for, and supported the Hospital in a variety of ways, raising thousands of dollars for equipment and projects.

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## Sharps Accepted

As a service to the communities it serves, ECH will collect residential sharps waste disposal that meets both the facility and New York State requirements for proper disposal. Needles, syringes and lancets will be accepted on Monday - Friday between 9 am and 12 Noon or by appointment. Arrangements for delivery should be made through Environmental Services.

Household sharps must be delivered to the Hospital in a sealed, shatter proof, leak proof and puncture resistant rigid container. The container must be marked with the word BIOHAZARD or CONTAINS SHARPS. Contents of the container must be identified

and the customer's name, address and date noted on the outside of the container.

- Puncture resistant plastic containers with tight-fitting screw tops such as soda bottles or bleach bottles are acceptable; small plastic sharps disposal containers are available in the local pharmacy. Containers with a screw cap should be sealed with heavy-duty tape.
- Coffee cans and glass bottles are unacceptable.
- Containers should be no more than 3/4 full.

For more information, call the Hospital at 873-6377 and ask to speak with environmental services.

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## For the Record in Medical Records

*By Aimee Adams, MT/Coder*

Welcome back to an inside look at Health Information Services (HIS). The buzz about ECH expanding is quite exciting for the community and the hospital itself. We are very proud of our rural health care facility and what lies ahead for us.

HIS, as you might remember from the winter 2007 article, "Medical Records are Going Digital", has been working hard to transform paper records into electronic medical records. This procedure will be required of all hospitals by 2012 and though that may seem far away, you would not believe the overwhelming amount of paper created in a day and the space it takes up.

It is imperative for clinical staff to become familiar with the new version of the medical record that allows the doctors and nurses access to patient information

immediately. Staff will have pertinent medical information at their fingertips 24/7. This accessibility is especially important in an emergency as the time that it takes to physically locate and update records can be critical. Another benefit of the electronic health record is that it allows for electronic exchange with other hospitals, such as CVPH Medical Center in Plattsburgh and Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington. We assure you that privacy and quality are of the utmost importance and we follow very secure and strict guidelines in this transition to ensure that your private medical information is secure and accurate.

All questions are welcome and encouraged so please contact HIS at 873-3064 or [aadams@ech.org](mailto:aadams@ech.org) and we will get back to you in a timely manner.



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## Invest in the Heart of Your Community

### Leaders of Campaign Announced

Local community leaders and hospital supporters Nancy Dawson and George Maffey have agreed to work as co-chairs of a steering committee to help raise \$2 million for the hospital's upcoming expansion and renovation project. As part of *The Healthy Community Campaign*, they will be reaching out to involve everyone in the region in this worthwhile project.

Steering committee members have been recruited

from throughout Essex County and include: Gayle Alexander, Bonnie Bigelow, Rod Boula, Anne Marie Denton, Dr. Rob DeMuro, Lynn Edmonds, Mary Lou Grinwis, Kerry Haley, Rick Hoffmann, Phil Hutchins, Ron Jackson, Elizabeth Lawrence, Eira Manning, Charity Marlatt and Laura Sells Doyle with support from Betty Ann Kearney and John Donovan.

### Employees Raise \$60,000

To show their support of the upcoming hospital expansion and the Healthy Community Campaign, employees at ECH set a goal to raise \$50,000. The drive was headed up by Bonnie Bigelow, RN and Director of Quality for the hospital, who worked with a committee of employees. Together, staff rallied around the project, exceeding their goal by raising over \$60,000.

Employees of the hospital were able to make up to a three year pledge with payroll deduction being an option. All employees who donated were entered into a drawing to win one of several prizes donated by committee members.

"Hospital staff should be proud of how much they were able to raise for the building project," said Bigelow. "This is something that not only improves our work environment but also will make it a better place for our families, friends and neighbors."



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### Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Events

- ✓ September 13th     **Adirondacker's Health Screening** 5-7PM at ECH
- ✓ October TBA        Auxiliary's 2nd Annual and much anticipated **Scavenger Hunt**
- ✓ October TBA        **40th Birthday Celebration & Open House**

*For more information about any of these events, call 873-6377.*

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Elizabethtown Community Hospital is a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital and not-for-profit, charitable organization located in Elizabethtown, New York. Its services include a 24-hour emergency department, acute, sub-acute and long-term inpatient care, physical therapy, laboratory, and radiology services. It houses a VA Clinic and kidney dialysis unit and operates health centers in Elizabethtown and Westport.

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For comments, suggestions, or questions about this newsletter, please contact:

Community Relations Office, Elizabethtown Community Hospital  
75 Park Street, P.O. Box 277, Elizabethtown, NY 12932  
(518) 873-3003

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Visit us on the web at

[www.ech.org](http://www.ech.org)

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