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**Rockdale Medical Center, One of Only 15% of U.S. Hospitals,
Receives Quality Respiratory Care Recognition Award**

Conyers, GA – Rockdale Medical Center has earned Quality Respiratory Care Recognition (QRCR) under a national program aimed at helping patients and families make informed decisions about the quality of the respiratory care services available in hospitals. About 700 hospitals or approximately 15% of hospitals in the United States have applied for and received this award.

The QRCR program was started by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) in 2003 to help consumers identify those facilities using qualified respiratory therapists to provide respiratory care. Hospitals earning the QRCR designation ensure patient safety by agreeing to adhere to a strict set of criteria governing their respiratory care services.

The AARC's QRCR program grew out of growing concerns among health care leaders and the general public regarding the safety and quality of health care services provided to patients. "Hospitals that meet the QRCR requirements provide a level of respiratory care consistent with national standards and guidelines, and should be commended for their commitment to quality care," said Sherry Milligan Associate Executive Director of the AARC.

Respiratory therapists are specially trained health care professionals who work under physician's orders to provide a wide range of breathing treatments and other services to people with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, lung cancer, AIDS and other lung or lung-related conditions. They also care for premature infants and are key members of lifesaving response teams charged with handling medical emergencies.

The AARC is a membership organization representing more than 46,000 health professionals involved in respiratory care nationwide. A full list of the 2008 QRCCR hospitals will be posted on the YourLungHealth.org website on April 15, 2008.

The recognition certificate was presented to James Gann, RRT, Adult Respiratory Care Supervisor, who is not shown in the above photo. RMC respiratory team members shown in the photo above are:

Row 1 Front L to R
Row 2 Back L to R

Vanessa Dameron, Lizy Kaparmapil, Lisymol Joseph
Stephen Loyd, Tim Andrews

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