

Rome Memorial Hospital's Mammography Services Accredited by ACR

ROME (October 23) - Rome Memorial Hospital has been awarded a three-year accreditation by the American College of Radiology (ACR) for its mammography services. "It is an assurance to our patients that we provide the best possible images and the interpretation of those images," said Director of Medical Imaging Josh Porte.

The ACR, headquartered in Reston, Va., awarded accreditation to Rome Memorial Hospital for its achievement of high practice standards after a peer-review evaluation of the hospital's practice. Evaluations of the hospital were conducted by board-certified physicians and medical physicists who are experts in the field. They assessed the qualifications of the personnel and the adequacy of facility equipment. The surveyors reported their findings to the ACR's Committee on Accreditation, which subsequently provided the hospital with a comprehensive report.

"Our radiologists and Dr. John Restivo, who is head of the hospital's medical staff and chairman of the Medical Imaging Department, have set the bar at a level that assured us this accomplishment," said Porte. "Their insistence on imaging excellence and quality patient care is clearly evident," he added. Porte said that the efforts of lead mammographer Sharon Carson, mammographers Genevieve Bartoszek and Desiree Edgar, and the entire medical imaging staff made the accreditation possible. "This accreditation exemplifies the hospital's quest for excellence, said Porte. "It takes us well beyond the minimum standards of practice," he added.

Carson said that this accreditation is a strong indicator to patients that "our films and the personnel who work in the department are of top-notch quality." She said that it is a very stringent process and very hard to pass. "Every detail has to be perfect," she said.

Assistant Vice President of Planning and Outpatient Services Mark Snyderman said that patients at Rome Memorial Hospital have the assurance that the mammography procedures being done at the hospital meet the standards of the ACR "which are the same standards of the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) and other standards across the nation."

"Between ACR, MQSA, and the New York State Department of Health, we are surveyed annually in medical imaging," he said. "We were the first facility in this area to be accredited by ACR before it was mandated. We participated in the survey when it was just voluntary."

Rome Memorial Hospital provides mammography services at the hospital's 1500 North James Street site. The Central Outpatient Scheduling Office at 338-7338 can make appointments with a physician's order.

The ACR is a national organization serving more than 32,000 diagnostic/interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists and medical physicists with programs for focusing on the practice of medical imaging and radiation oncology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services.