

Contact: Stuart Jones
Manager, Community Relations, 231.728.4669
Hackley Hospital

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 25, 2002

Hackley Hospital Exceeds Industry Benchmark For Vaccinations of Inpatients

National Study Cites Deficiencies in Adult Vaccinations in Hospitals

(Muskegon, MI) – Hackley Hospital has established the industry’s best rates in Michigan for screening and administering inpatients pneumococcal and influenza vaccines, according to statistics compiled by the Michigan Peer Review Organization. Pneumococcal vaccine is recommended for adults 65 years and older is given to prevent pneumonia.

According to a study published November 11, 2002, in the Archives of Internal Medicine, 95% of hospitalized adults were not properly screened or vaccinated for either influenza and/or pneumonia. Researchers have called upon hospitals to implement organized screening processes of and vaccination programs for inpatients deemed at risk. The Centers for Disease Control estimates that approximately 40,000 Americans die annually due to these diseases.

According to recent study of the Michigan Peer Review Organization, a body in which all Michigan hospitals participate, Hackley Hospital achieved a 70% rate for screening and providing the pneumococcal vaccine to adult inpatients in 2001. The statewide average was 28.4%. For influenza, Hackley Hospital achieved an 88.3% vaccination rate versus a statewide average of 21.1%.

States Virginia Pitts, RN, Manager of Quality Review at Hackley Hospital, clinical staff has placed special emphasis on making sure patients are immunized. “We’ve made this a high priority the past three years. Achieving the highest rates in the state is a credit to the staff’s constant vigilance. They see it as their duty to make sure their patient has been properly screened, and if appropriate, vaccinated.” Adds Pitts, “These are diseases to be taken very seriously. I urge people to check with their primary care provider if they haven’t had their vaccination.”

###