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Expanded Hackley Hospital Cancer Center to Include State-of-the-Art Linear Accelerator

(Muskegon, MI) Hackley Hospital's Cancer Center is currently embarking on the installation of a new linear accelerator to help treat local cancer patients. The Hospital is purchasing a \$1.3 million dollar Siemens Dual Photon Energy Primus Hi-Energy linear accelerator.

The new linear accelerator planned for the Hackley Hospital Cancer Center is highly specialized equipment that is used in radiation oncology. Radiation therapy is commonly employed in cancer treatment. It has become highly sophisticated in recent years with the emergence of such procedures as Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), Stereotactic Radiosurgery, and 3-D Conformal Treatment Planning, each of which is offered at Hackley.

"This technology represents a large step forward in the battle against cancer. The Hackley Cancer Center is committed to offer local patients the latest technology and the highest quality of care," states Lucinda Wiseman, Director of Cancer Services at Hackley Hospital.

A 2,428 square foot expansion of the Hackley Cancer Center is underway in order to house the new linear accelerator. The vault – as it is called – is specifically built to accommodate the linear accelerator and its associated radiation. Construction specifics include seven-foot thick walls in order to accommodate the associated radiation. Cost of construction is \$800,000 with Clifford Buck Construction Company of Muskegon acting as the contractor.

The new linear accelerator becomes the second Siemens linear accelerator housed at the Hackley Hospital Cancer Center. The first patient to receive treatment from the new accelerator is anticipated in the fall of 2004.

The Hackley Hospital Cancer Center is the lakeshore's only comprehensive cancer treatment center and lone provider of radiation therapy treatments in the Muskegon area. A full range of chemotherapy, radiation and cancer surgery is available, complemented by a holistic approach toward the patient and family which includes registered dietitians, social workers, spiritual care associates, an exercise program, alternative therapies, and support groups. In 2003 more than 13,000 radiation therapy treatments were provided at Hackley Hospital's Cancer Center.

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