

*Ukiah Valley  
Medical Center*



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**Ukiah Valley Medical Center Receives Full Accreditation Status**

As of May 12, 2004 Ukiah Valley Medical Center (UVMC) received official notice of the Full Accreditation status from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). The three-year accreditation, effective from January 29, 2004, covers all hospital services. UVMC underwent the two-and-a-half day survey process, January 26-28, 2004.

According to the JCAHO web site, the status of Accreditation with Full Standards Compliance is an “accreditation decision awarded to a health care organization that demonstrates satisfactory compliance with applicable Joint Commission standards in all performance areas.”

“Both of the JCAHO surveyors are seasoned medical professionals, Inez Kennemore, RN and J. Sean Callan, MD, and both have surveyed countless hospitals and health centers throughout the country,” says Mark E. LaRose, UVMC President/CEO. “To date, they gave UVMC the highest marks either has given to any organization in their many years of surveying. Ukiah Valley Medical Center and our community should recognize their comments on our teams’ excellence should not be taken lightly.” Recognizing that the longer the report, the more problem items that need to be corrected, UVMC’s total report from JCAHO is the shortest report that either surveyor had ever written.

Also noted by Surveyor Kennemore was UVMC’s patient care delivery model and patient classification system. “She commented that we have an exceptional model and excellent system; so much so that she encouraged UVMC to be publish the model,” comments UVMC’s Vice President of Patient Care Carolyn Kozik, MSN, RN.

This year the Joint Commission implemented a new survey process known as the Tracer Methodology. The Tracer Methodology calls for surveyors to follow or “trace” patients through the entire hospital experience requiring chart reviews, staff interviews and opportunity to interact with some of the current patients. “Everyone worked so diligently, producing outstanding results,” says Karen Stewart, RN, UVMC Director of Staff Development/Accreditation Process.

Judy Campbell, Director of Accreditation Processes for Adventist Health noted that UVMC has experienced one of the most positive marked changes she has ever seen in her many decades of health care experience.

Upon completion of the voluntary JCAHO accreditation survey, 5 percent of the hospitals are randomly selected for an unannounced Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) federal survey. UVMC was one of the randomly selected hospitals to participate in the CMS survey, and met all conditions of participation. The hospital has now been visited by three agencies within the last three months and is in compliance with all three: Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and California Department of Health Services (DHS). During the recent DHS visit, UVMC was also found to be in compliance with state nursing ratios as well.”

Ukiah Valley Medical Center continually focuses on providing high quality, mission-focused care to the communities we serve,” said LaRose. “Our participation in these surveys and our compliance with the standards underscores that commitment.”

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*The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) evaluates and accredits nearly 16,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, not-for-profit organization, JCAHO is the nation's predominant standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Since 1951, JCAHO has developed state-of-the-art, professionally based standards and evaluated the compliance of health care organizations against these benchmarks. For more information, visit [www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org).*

*Ukiah Valley Medical Center is a member of Adventist Health, a not-for-profit health care system affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with headquarters in Roseville, California. Spanning California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington, the organization is comprised of 85 distinct business units, including 20 acute care facilities—controlled, managed or leased—with more than 3,100 beds, 17,200 employees, numerous clinics and outpatient facilities, 18 home health agencies and two retirement centers. For more information, visit [www.uvmc.org](http://www.uvmc.org) or [www.adventisthealth.org](http://www.adventisthealth.org).*