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MEDIA RELEASE

Strawberry Health Center Opens Mammography Suite

HOUSTON (Feb. 22, 2007) – The Harris County Hospital District’s Strawberry Health Center is hosting an open house to launch its expansion of services, including its own mammography suite.

The expansion has added a full time mammography suite, a waiting room and one X-ray room. This will enable Strawberry to offer mammography services daily. In the past, Strawberry used M. D. Anderson’s mobile mammography unit, which only came 30 days out of the year.

“With our new area, we’ll be able to see 16 patients a day,” said Paul Shank, director of Strawberry Health Center.

“Mammograms are the best tool to screen for breast cancer,” said Loretta Hanser, mammography coordinator. “It can find breast cancer when there are no visible signs or symptoms – early enough so it can be cured.”

The new equipment also enables physicians at Ben Taub General Hospital to see a Strawberry patient’s mammogram in real time, thanks to the utilization of PACS, a tool that provides electronic versions of radiology images.

The American Cancer Society recommends that women 40 and older have a screening mammogram every year. The goal of screening exams, such as mammograms, is to find cancers before they start to cause symptoms.

This project was made possible through grants provided by Avon, the HCHD Foundation, Baylor College of Medicine’s Breast Center, the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the Pink Ribbon House Project.

WHAT: Strawberry Health Center’s Mammography Suite Open House

WHEN: 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28

WHERE: 927 Shaw Rd., Pasadena, 77506

The Harris County Hospital District is the public health care system for the nation’s third most-populous county. It provides more than 1.1 million health care visits each year to uninsured and underinsured residents of Harris County. The hospital district operates Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital, Quentin Mease Community Hospital, 12 community health centers, a dental center, eight school-based clinics, 13 homeless shelter clinics and four mobile health units.

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