



So good. So caring. So close.



Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 22, 2010

CONTACTS:

Nicholas Zaharias VP, Philanthropy & Marketing
Lawrence General Hospital
nicholas.s.zaharias@lawrencegeneral.org
978-946-8174

Jerry Berger, Director, Media Relations
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
jberger@bidmc.harvard.edu
617-667-7308

**LAWRENCE GENERAL HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES VOTE
TO FORMALIZE AFFILIATION WITH BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS MEDICAL CENTER**

LGH will remain an independent non-profit with access to additional enhanced clinical programs

LAWRENCE – The Lawrence General Hospital Board of Trustees has voted to build on a successful partnership in cardiovascular services and formalize its affiliation with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC). The new affiliation will enhance clinical programs in the greater Merrimack Valley, increase local access to all specialties of a Harvard-affiliated teaching hospital, and improve coordination of care through an integrated electronic medical record system.

In a related action, the Choice Plus Network, LGH’s independent physician association, has voted to formalize its own collaborative relationship with the Beth Israel Deaconess Physician Organization (BIDPO) for physician network integration and contracting and to enhance clinical affiliations and increase patient access to top quality care in northeastern Massachusetts.

The vote sets into motion a process that will enable LGH to remain an independent non-profit hospital, while offering patients an expanded roster of specialty services locally, decreasing the need to travel to Boston. Over the next several months, LGH and BIDMC will set clinical priorities and develop a schedule for implementation.

The hospitals will eventually operate several joint clinical programs using resources from both institutions to bring new and expanded high quality services to Lawrence, Andover, North Andover, Haverhill, Methuen, Salem, NH and other surrounding towns. These programs will tap into the expertise of doctors from Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center as well as the highly qualified LGH physicians.

“We are delighted to be charting a course that will bring the expertise and services of a major teaching hospital to our immediate community,” Richard J. Santagati, Chairman of the Lawrence General Hospital Board of Trustees observed. “This joint initiative between an already strong community hospital and a world-renowned teaching hospital assures that quality clinical programs will be available locally without patients needing to travel into Boston for the very best care available.”

The plan builds on a relationship that began in 2009 when the two hospitals introduced a joint affiliation for cardiac care via BIDMC's CardioVascular Institute. Interventional cardiologists from Lawrence General joined forces with their BIDMC peers to significantly enhance cardiac catheterization and emergency angioplasty services in the Merrimack Valley, performing procedures in the recently renovated cardiac catheterization suite at the community hospital.

"The physicians and nurses of Lawrence General Hospital are expert clinicians dedicated to providing the highest quality care in the Merrimack Valley. Now, with this exciting partnership with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, we will bring the best that Boston has to offer to our own immediate region," said Dianne J. Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lawrence General Hospital. "This partnership will significantly strengthen the quality, breadth and depth of health care offered at Lawrence General and expands on our already successful cardiac care collaboration with the talented physicians of BIDMC."

"Greater integration with BIDMC and HMFP physicians means patients will be seen in their community when clinically appropriate, and will have good access to more complex care when necessary," said Stuart Rosenberg MD, president and CEO of HMFP and BIDPO. "More efficient integration also allows us to reduce duplicative treatments and testing, and enables the patient to return to the community for care as quickly as possible."

"Over time we look to expand the collaborations between Lawrence General physicians and their Boston colleagues, including an increased ability for physicians to exchange electronic medical information important to patients' care," said Stanley Lewis, MD, BIDMC's senior vice president of network integration. "The ability to exchange records between different electronic medical record systems facilitates the coordination of healthcare delivery to patients."

Lawrence General Hospital's mission of care began in 1875 when founded by The Ladies Union Charitable Society. The first hospital in the central Merrimack Valley of northeastern Massachusetts., LGH is a high access, high value, low cost, innovative and thriving community health care provider. Through the generosity of individuals, corporations, friends, area foundations and trusts, Lawrence General is able to continue its long standing dedication of providing charity care and health services to the most underserved in our region. Charity care accounts for \$936,000 of the nearly \$2 million Lawrence General Hospital provides in community benefit programs that directly impact the health status of local residents. Lawrence General's commitment to the health needs of the community is guided by a Board of Trustees from our service area, and carried out by 1,400 employees and 200 volunteers whose service hours total more than 32,000, pledged to service excellence.

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center is a patient care, teaching and research affiliate of Harvard Medical School, and consistently ranks among the top four in National Institutes of Health funding among independent hospitals nationwide. BIDMC is clinically affiliated with the Joslin Diabetes Center and is a

research partner of Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center. BIDMC is the official hospital of the Boston Red Sox.
For more information, visit www.bidmc.org