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## **National cancer group cites ‘stellar performance’ by CentraState**

**FREEHOLD TOWNSHIP**–The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer has presented CentraState Medical Center an Outstanding Achievement Award for high-quality cancer care. After conducting an on-site survey last November, the commission this month announced a three-year reaccreditation with commendation through 2010 for CentraState as a Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program. This is CentraState’s second consecutive Outstanding Achievement Award from the commission, which sets the standards for cancer care nationwide.

Only 66 of the 453 cancer programs nationwide surveyed in 2007 received this award. CentraState’s was one of only five in New Jersey to do so.

“To receive the Outstanding Achievement Award, a cancer program must meet all 36 accreditation standards and exceed in eight relating to scope and quality of clinical services, community outreach, quality improvement, research, leadership and data management,” Uzma Rizwan, BS, CCS, CTR, Cancer Registry coordinator, says. “The award reflects the breadth of services offered and the extra efforts our physicians and staff make to consistently deliver high-quality care.”

A “Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program” designation is for hospitals that diagnose and/or treat at least 650 new cancer cases each year, provide a full range of diagnostic and treatment services on site or by referral, and participate in clinical trials. Also, members of the medical staff must be board certified in oncology and other major medical specialties.

CentraState Healthcare System is a non-profit community health organization consisting of an acute-care hospital, an ambulatory campus, three senior living communities, a Family Medicine Residency Program, and a charitable foundation. It is a member of the Robert Wood Johnson Health Network and a clinical research affiliate of The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center.

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