

Argus Courier – PVH Earns Mammography Accreditation

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PVH EARNS MAMMOGRAPHY ACCREDITATION

Petaluma Valley Hospital now is licensed to perform services at its mammography suite for the next three years after successfully passing the final stage of accreditation by the American College of Radiology, said Kevin Andrus, PVH's director of marketing, communications and public relations.

When the suite opened in the hospital in February 2007, it operated under a provisional license, but selected mammography exams recently were reviewed and approved by a board of radiologists, thereby satisfying accreditation requirements.

Physicians who are experts in the field conduct evaluations, and the ACR awards accreditation to facilities that have achieved high practice standards.

PVH now offers mammography services at two locations — the new suite in its imaging department and the Lynch Creek Outpatient Clinic, a fully accredited facility. The license for services at the Lynch Creek facility will need to be renewed in 2010, and will be contingent upon successful inspections as required by state and federal laws.

“Our goal is to provide the best and most convenient care for our patients, and this new mammography suite allows us to serve their needs better than ever,” said Katherine Stern, supervisor of mammography services. “Because mammography services are now offered within the hospital, we can offer same-day exam review and feedback, and if the results lead to an ultrasound recommendation, we can perform the ultrasound on the same day.

“This means our patients can make fewer visits and wait less time for results, which they appreciate.”

The ACR works with the State of California's Department of Health Services and the Food and Drug Administration to grant accreditation and

licensing in accordance with the FDA's Mammography Quality Standards Act.