



News Release

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GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL SYSTEM'S BREAST HEALTH PROGRAM AND COASTAL CAROLINA BREAST CENTER RECEIVE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Myrtle Beach, SC—**Georgetown Hospital System's Breast Health Program along with Coastal Carolina Breast Center** have been granted a three-year/full accreditation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC) making them one of only eight facilities in South Carolina to receive such a designation, and one of only 200 within the United States.

This accreditation is granted to Georgetown Hospital System's Breast Health Program and Coastal Carolina Breast Center along with affiliates: Georgetown Radiology, Waccamaw Oncology, Georgetown Pathology Associates and the Francis B. Ford Cancer Treatment Center in Georgetown, SC.

"This is quite an honor," said N. Craig Brackett, III, MD, FACS, the founder of Coastal Carolina Breast Center. "It is evidence that the care we are providing is among the best in the nation! That's good news for us and for the thousands of women that we treat."

The National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers is administered by the American College of Surgeons. Accreditation is awarded only to those centers that have voluntarily committed to provide the highest level of quality breast care, and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance.

During the survey process, the center must demonstrate compliance with 27 standards established by the NAPBC for treating women who are diagnosed with the full spectrum

of breast disease. The standards include proficiency in the areas of center leadership, clinical management, research, community outreach, professional education, and quality improvement. A breast center that achieves NAPBC accreditation has demonstrated a firm commitment to offer its patients every significant advantage in their battle against breast disease.

“The NAPBC recognizes and applauds Coastal Carolina Breast Center’s commitment to providing the highest quality evaluation and management of your patients with breast disease,” said Scott H. Kurtzman, MD, FACS, and Chair of the NAPBC Standards and Accreditation Committee in his letter announcing the accreditation. Terry Sarantou, MD, FACS, Surveyor, echoed those sentiments. “You are an outstanding Center! Your physicians are passionate about their Breast Center and both your physicians and staff are professional. Care rendered is first rate. Coastal Carolina Breast Center embodies the ideal relationship between physicians in private practice and the hospital to provide state-of-the-art care for all patients. You have clearly worked hard to achieve this goal,” Sarantou said.

The National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to the improvement of the quality of care and monitoring of outcomes of patients with diseases of the breast. Their mission is pursued through standard-setting, scientific validation, and patient and professional education. Its board membership includes professionals from 15 national organizations that reflect the full spectrum of breast care.

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States, affecting approximately one woman in every eight. Nationwide, approximately 255,000 women will be diagnosed this year alone.

Receiving care at a NAPBC-accredited center ensures that a patient will have access to:

- Comprehensive care, including a full range of state-of-the-art services
- A multidisciplinary team approach to coordinate the best treatment options
- Information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options
- And, most importantly, quality breast care close to home.

For more information about the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, visit their website at www.accreditedbreastcenters.org. For more information on Coastal Carolina Breast Center visit their website at www.coastalbreastcenter.com

Coastal Carolina Breast Center is the area’s only practice dedicated solely to breast health. In addition to being accredited by NAPBC, it is recognized as a Center of Excellence. Breast specialist, N. Craig Brackett, III, MD, FACS, joined in practice by Angela M. Mislowsky, MD, has treated an estimated 25,000 patients during the last fifteen years. Their offices are located at the Imaging Center at Waccamaw Medical Park in Murrells Inlet and the Frances B. Ford Cancer Center in Georgetown, South Carolina. Physician referrals are not required. For more information or to make an appointment, call (843) 651-3308.
