

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WATERBURY HOSPITAL FIRST IN AREA TO OFFER  
WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS**

**WATERBURY** – Waterbury Hospital today announced that it will be the first hospital in the area to offer wireless Internet access for laptop computer users who are guests of the hospital.

The free service will be available in the hospital lobby, the One-Day Surgery waiting room and the hospital library. The new service is part of the hospital's effort to make the facility more computer-friendly to the public. A plan to provide wireless Internet access for patients staying in the hospital is currently in the works. Currently, any guest with a laptop and a Windows XP or Windows Vista operating system can access the Internet in the areas of the hospital indicated above. Users with MacIntosh operating systems will not be able to access the Internet in the hospital.

According to Steve Laskarzewski, Chief Information Officer at Waterbury Hospital, the institution has made it a priority to provide wireless services to its guests and patients. "We've been working diligently towards this goal because we live in an era of instant access," he said. "We definitely see this as one of many benefits we try to offer to our customers who are visiting or staying at the hospital."

Due to the confidential nature of conducting business in a health care facility, certain limitations will be in place for those accessing the Internet within the hospital. For example, the hospital uses a content filtering firewall to avoid exposure to certain computer viruses. Also, users will be unable to print while using the hospital's wireless services.

Informational brochures will be available at the three wireless locations in the hospital to provide interested computer users with the proper steps needed to access the Internet. The hospital is also offering free Help Desk assistance through the Information Services Department from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

*With approximately 2,100 employees, Waterbury Hospital is one of the largest private employers in the Greater Waterbury region, and serves a vital role in the economic vitality of Western Connecticut. It is a private, non-profit acute care teaching hospital licensed for 367 beds and affiliated with the Yale School of Medicine, the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Founded in 1890 as Waterbury's first and Connecticut's fourth hospital, Waterbury Hospital is a full-service community health-care institution with centers of excellence in primary care, behavioral health and orthopaedics.*

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