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DAY KIMBALL HOSPITAL TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

PUTNAM, CONN. – Day Kimball Hospital will celebrate National Patient Safety Awareness Week from March 4-10, 2012. This year's theme, "*Be Aware for Safe Care*" is an important part of Day Kimball's philosophy in providing high-quality healthcare. The goal of this campaign is to emphasize the fact that safety issues impact everyone.

Healthcare providers form a partnership with their patients by encouraging them to participate in their own care. Because open communication is a very important part of safety in patient care, patients and families should:

- Provide a list of medicines, herbs, vitamins you take at home.
- Ask about new medicines.
- Ask your doctor to explain your illness or condition in a way you understand.
- Ask staff members who care for you their name and title.
- Be sure your nurse checks your wristband before giving you any medicines or treatments.
- Ask all people to wash their hands before caring for you.
- Ask for help moving if you are unsteady.
- Always report any pain to your nurse or doctor.
- Tell your doctor or nurse if something does not seem right.
- Make sure all your questions are answered, especially about how to manage your medicines at home or of any side effects that may occur.
- Ask about resources you may need when you are discharged from the hospital.

Day Kimball has several activities planned during this celebration week to highlight many of the initiatives that demonstrate its commitment to patient safety.

Day Kimball Healthcare is a non-profit, integrated medical services provider comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, Putnam and Thompson, Day Kimball HomeCare, Hospice & Palliative Care of Northeastern CT, Day Kimball HomeMakers and Day Kimball Physician Practices. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare's comprehensive network offers more than 1,200 employees including nearly 300 highly-skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its website is daykimball.org.