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**Gaylord Specialty Healthcare Surpasses
One-Million Steps Taken in Wearable Exoskeleton**

WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT, September 10, 2018 — Gaylord Specialty Healthcare celebrates the one-millionth step taken in the hospital's Ekso Bionics wearable exoskeleton. The Wallingford-based specialty hospital is the only hospital in the state to use the Ekso Bionics exoskeleton and is the second in North America nation to achieve the one-million step milestone as a single Ekso device user.

The Ekso device is a portable, adjustable bionic exoskeleton designed to help patients with lower-extremity paralysis or weakness resulting from a spinal cord injury or other neurologic condition (including stroke and multiple sclerosis), to stand up and walk. Since being introduced to Gaylord Hospital in 2013, approximately 150 individuals have used the device for in-patient and/or out-patient physical therapy.

The one-millionth step was attributed to 25-year-old Jillian Harpin of Wolcott, who suffered a spinal cord injury after a three-story fall on vacation in Mexico in 2016. Harpin says that the Ekso, which she has been using in both in-patient and out-patient therapies at Gaylord, offers more than the physical benefits of improved bone density and circulation and reduced muscle spasticity. For Harpin, the Ekso represents improved quality of life.

"When I am in Ekso," she said, "I can't wipe the smile off of my face. I can't tell you what it means to be able to stand up and have a conversation with my friends and family at eye-level."

At a recent celebration attended by Ekso graduates, current patients and Gaylord's Ekso-trained therapists, Tara Knapp, Vice President of Development, Marketing and Public Relations commented that the Faxon Law Group in New Haven was instrumental in helping to raise funds in 2012 to enable the purchase of the device through its Community Builder Challenge. "Without them," she said, "this milestone would not have happened."

[Click here to view a video on Jillian Harpin's rehabilitation with Ekso.](#)

[For more information on the Ekso Bionics wearable exoskeleton, click here.](#)

About Gaylord Specialty Healthcare:

Gaylord Specialty Healthcare, headquartered in Wallingford, Connecticut is a not-for profit, 137-bed specialty hospital that provides care and treatment of people with complex medical and intensive rehabilitation issues. Gaylord also operates outpatient therapy centers in Wallingford, North Haven, and Cheshire. For latest news or more information go to www.gaylord.org.

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