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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATE TO RECEIVE \$228,000 SETTLEMENT FROM
DESERT SPRINGS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER**
Fine paid after inspections uncover problem with mammography program

(Carson City, NV) — Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Director Mike Willden today announced that the State Health Division has reached a settlement with Desert Springs Hospital and Medical Center of Las Vegas over problems with the facility's mammography program.

Desert Springs has agreed to pay a \$228,000 administrative fine and will be subject to Health Division monitoring over the next year to ensure corrective actions have been implemented.

"The Health Division and its inspectors are working diligently to assure the people of Nevada that medical facilities are adhering to proper and standard practices, and that the state is willing to take action to address problems, when necessary," Willden said.

During an inspection performed by the State Health Division's Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance, Radiological Health Section, several problems were found relating to the hospital's mammography program, particularly quality assurance and control, and proper maintenance of records.

The primary effect of these violations on patient care related to the quality of mammogram images. Since the problems were discovered, however, all 92 patients affected have been notified and have received additional screenings.

The Health Division notified Desert Springs on May 12, 2008 that it would be issuing a Notice of Intent to Deny Renewal of a Certificate based on its findings. A total of 228 violations were cited. The fine amounts to a \$1,000 per violation penalty.

(more)

As part of the settlement agreement, Desert Springs agreed to:

- Prepare and maintain an acceptable outlining and detail of the duties of a mammographer that adheres to all state and federal regulations.
- Submit on a quarterly basis all quality control and quality assurance records, as well as medical outcome audit reports to the Radiological Health Section.
- Prepare and maintain a self-reporting policy that requires the Radiological Health Section to be notified within ten days of any violations or problems associated with the mammography machine.
- Prepare and maintain a record of all policies, procedures, files, reports, and quality control/quality assurance records that includes a locator sheet containing the exact location of all such information.
- Prepare and maintain an acceptable and documented written policy outlining random quality control/quality assurance checks will be periodically conducted.
- Implement provisions of free mammography exams for patients that qualify for the Women's Health Connection (Monthly Cap of Thirty Patients) or meet similar criteria for male patients or patients who do not qualify for such program but can demonstrate a financial need.

Any questions should be referred to Karen K. Beckley, Program Manager, Radiological Health Section, 775.687.7540.

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