HNJH Sleep Center Receives Program Accreditation
by Deborah Doyle, Helen Newberry Joy Hospital & Healthcare Center

Helen Newberry Joy Hospital & Healthcare Center’s Sleep Center recently received program accreditation from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM).

“The American Academy of Sleep Medicine congratulates Helen Newberry Joy Hospital Sleep Center on fulfilling the high standards required for receiving accreditation as a sleep disorders center,” said Dr. Nancy Collop, AASM president. “The HNJH Sleep Center is a significant resource to the local medical community and will provide academic and scientific value in addition to the highest quality care for patients suffering from sleep disorders.”

To receive a five-year accreditation, a sleep center must meet or exceed all standards for professional health care as designated by the AASM. The accreditation process involves detailed inspection of a center’s facility and staff, including an evaluation of testing procedures, patient contacts, and physician training. Additionally, the facility’s goals must be clearly stated and include plans for positively affecting the quality of medical care in the community it serves.

Directed by Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine specialist Jeffrey B. Washington, MD, the HNJH Sleep Center can help diagnose and treat a wide variety of sleep disorders. Able to treat both adults and children (over three years), the Sleep Center addresses disorders such as sleep apnea, insomnia, restless leg syndrome, narcolepsy, sleep talking or walking, teeth grinding and bed wetting—just to name a few.

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine is a professional medical society for clinicians, researchers, and other health care providers in the field of sleep medicine. As the national accrediting body for sleep disorders centers and labs, the AASM is dedicated to setting standards and promoting excellence in sleep medicine health care, education and research.

“We’ve been diligently working toward this accreditation since late 2008 when we began our affiliation with the Northern Michigan Hospital Sleep Centers,” says Hospital CEO Scott Pillion. He added, “To meet the AASM accreditation requirements, our Sleep Center staff completed extensive training and met the challenges of a comprehensive AASM evaluation of our Sleep Center. Having the American Academy of Sleep Medicine provide accreditation is confirmation that the HNJH Sleep Center is successfully meeting the needs of the physicians and our patients.”

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine currently accredits more than 2,200 sleep medicine centers across the country. Although there are a number of sites providing sleep study services in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, the Helen Newberry Joy Hospital Sleep Center and one other in Iron Mountain are the only two UP facilities accredited by the AASM.

The HNJH Sleep Center is located at Helen Newberry Joy Hospital & Healthcare Center at 502 West Harrie Street in Newberry. To learn more about sleep disorders and HNJH Sleep Center services call 906-293-9271, visit us on the second floor of Helen Newberry Joy Hospital, or find us online at hnjh.org.

For more information about American Academy of Sleep Medicine, visit them at www.yoursleep.aasmnet.org.