



Verdugo Hills
HOSPITAL

News
For Immediate Release

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**Verdugo Hills Hospital Launches Innovative
Service to Treat the Flu via TeleMedicine**

(GLENDALE, CA – January 18, 2010) – Verdugo Hills Hospital (VHH) is pleased to provide a flu information line with videoconferencing capabilities for California residents seeking medical advice for their flu-like conditions. Individuals may access one of VHH’s Emergency Department physicians through a telephone line and web camera on their home personal computer or laptop. This service, which requires a \$100 consultation fee, will offer individuals the opportunity to describe their symptoms to the physician and receive professional consultation.

Depending on the physician’s assessment, individuals may be provided prescription for symptom management via email or be advised to come in to the Emergency Department for further assessment and treatment. If individuals need to access the Emergency Department, their care can be expedited since some of their basic information, including current medical conditions, have already been obtained through the internet.

“We have an innovative way of dealing with the H1N1 pandemic, that is safe, quick, convenient and low cost, to better serve our community,” said Leo Berkenbile, MD, Chief of Medical Staff at VHH, and an emergency room physician.

This service has been implemented for the current flu season surge capacity and to avoid the spread of H1N1 as well as reduce the emergency room congestion and provide more convenient access to care.

For more information or to access this service, please go to www.vhhospital.org and click on the Flu video or “Flu Advice Line.”

About the Hospital:

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. Hospital features include Fast-Track emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. The Hospital also offers surgical services, including bariatric and orthopedic surgeries. It is the only independent, free-

standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Foothills’ Best Hospital” by readers of the *Glendale News-Press* for five consecutive years. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org. For more information about funding initiatives or to support the hospital, please call the Foundation at 818.952.2226.

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