

For Immediate Release

"Can you hear me now?" health discussion HMH invites community to hearing loss presentation

HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS (January 19, 2009) – Affecting 17 percent of adults in America according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), hearing loss can be a debilitating affliction. Huntsville Memorial Hospital (HMH) is inviting the community to the "Can you hear me now?" presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 27 in the HMH Conference Rooms. Dr. Ron Kuppersmith, partner/co-founder and Audiologist Kirsta Herder from the Texas ENT & Allergy clinic in College Station, will discuss advances in the diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 37 million adults in the United States had trouble hearing in 2006 with men being more likely to experience hearing loss than women. The NIDCD also found a strong relationship between age and reported hearing loss. The percent of those suffering from hearing loss jumps from 18 percent of 45-64-year-old adults to 47 percent of adults 75 years old or older.

"While research confirms that the older a person gets the more likely he or she is to experience hearing loss, anyone at any age can experience varying levels of hearing impairment," Kuppersmith said. "We hope to inform people of the signs and options available if they are experiencing hearing loss or want to know what's available if they ever do suffer from hearing loss."

Signs of hearing loss range from having to ask people to repeat themselves and turning up the volume on TVs or radios to ringing in the ears and difficulty understanding people. The key to treatment is diagnosis – starting with a hearing assessment. Treatment can vary from medical or surgical options to rehabilitative devices, such as hearing aids.

"While hearing loss is not directly life threatening, it certainly affects a person's quality of life," said Sally Nelson, HMH CEO. "There are many options available to people, and we want to make sure the community is aware of the latest treatments and technology."

This seminar is part of Huntsville Memorial's ongoing commitment to the community to provide the latest information on health issues with a practical, caring approach. It is HMH's goal to better inform individuals on how to lead healthier lifestyles. Attendees will enjoy refreshments and door

prizes. For more information about the informative session, contact HMH marketing at 936-291-4599.

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About Huntsville Memorial Hospital

Since 1927, Huntsville Memorial Hospital has provided benevolent and charitable health care services, setting the standard for quality, proficient health care for the residents of Walker County and the surrounding communities. At Huntsville Memorial, we have great people who are passionate about your health. We have outstanding physicians, motivated leadership, and compassionate staff. We are your friends and neighbors – dedicated to excellence in everything we do – right here at home.

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