



For Immediate Release  
September 3, 2010

**Contact:** Stacey Brandt, Marketing Manager  
561-741-6800 / [staceybrandt@jupitermed.com](mailto:staceybrandt@jupitermed.com)

## **JUPITER MEDICAL CENTER'S HIGH RISK ASSESSMENT PROGRAM STREAMLINES BREAST CANCER SCREENING AND DIAGNOSIS**

### *Facility Gears Up to Seek Breast Imaging Center of Excellence Accreditation*

JUPITER, Fla. – Women at high risk of developing breast cancer may know that early detection is crucial, but getting screened and coordinating testing can be a challenge. That's why Jupiter Medical Center's Women's Diagnostics Center has streamlined the experience with its one-stop High Risk Assessment Program for Breast Cancer.

"We want to remove the anxiety and time women are often burdened with in the breast exam and diagnostic process, with comprehensive evaluation to detect and treat breast cancer as early as possible," said Sandra Mondro, M.D., Board Certified, Diagnostic Radiologist and Women's Diagnostics' Medical Director.

The Women's Diagnostics Center offers a uniquely integrated, personalized approach in a supportive environment. It starts with a complete breast cancer risk assessment for every woman based on her family and medical history. "By understanding a woman's risk profile, our team can begin to identify and provide the screening methods, medical care and emotional support she needs, all in one location," Dr. Mondro said.

That approach involves close collaboration among the Center's team of medical professionals, including radiologists, medical oncologists, pathologists, surgeons, nurses, high risk counselors, social workers, even physical therapists. Jupiter Medical Center has been assembling the breast care team and advanced diagnostic technology to become a premier diagnostic center for women. The Center is designated by the American College of Radiology as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence – a designation shared by only a handful of facilities in the nation. Under Dr. Mondro's leadership, JMC has now initiated the process to seek accreditation of JMC's Breast Cancer Program by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers through the Commission on Cancer.

About 207,090 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in the United States in 2010, according to the American Cancer Society, and sometimes routine breast exams and annual mammograms aren't enough to catch the disease early. The Women's Diagnostics Center's risk assessment is often the most important part of the patient's comprehensive evaluation, says Cathy Marinak, ARNP, Oncology Care Specialist and certified clinical breast examiner. Marinak is the first point of contact after a patient completes this complimentary assessment.

Patients with average and higher risk are offered the opportunity to have a clinical breast exam prior to a mammogram. Marinak, who completed national certification in this area, says this step is often valuable in identifying issues that could be missed in a mammogram. She works closely with the mammographer and radiologists to carefully examine anything questionable. "When we work as a team, we are better able to put together the pieces of a puzzle," she explained. "Sometimes I detect something through touch that is harder to detect in a mammogram or ultrasound."

The results of the risk assessment, together with the breast exam, enable the Center's staff to determine the best screening plan for each patient, based on their risk factors. Genetic testing, for example, is offered when a hereditary pattern is present. Women who are in the high-risk category have access to a state-of-the-art breast MRI that features a special table designed for comfort and the ability to examine both breasts at the same time. If abnormalities are discovered, the entire team of medical professionals is available to the patient. Each week, the team meets for a pre-treatment conference to discuss individual patient cases. "It takes a lot of work to create a collaborative approach like this," said Dr. Mondro, "but it's this special collaboration that allows us to create specifically-tailored treatment plans for our high-risk patients."

Dr. Mondro lists a number of benefits of JMC's Women's Diagnostics Center that patients should use as a benchmark when selecting a breast health facility. Radiologists on staff, for example, should have extensive experience reading mammograms. The radiology team at JMC reviews more than 10,000 mammograms each year. (Less than 5 percent of the radiologists in the nation read more than 5,000 mammograms and only 400 a year are required for certification.)

Other criteria include having staff members available to help patients navigate through the process when abnormalities are discovered; having a breast center of excellence designation; the availability of a high risk program; the capability to perform breast biopsies on site; and having a clinic affiliated with the facility or located directly on site.

For women who are uninsured or under insured, the JMC Center offers assistance through grants from the National Breast Cancer Foundation and the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

A not-for-profit 283-bed community Medical Center consisting of 163 private acute care hospital beds and 120 long-term care beds, Jupiter Medical Center provides a broad range of services with specialty concentrations in orthopaedics, long-term care, minimally invasive vascular procedures, cancer care and advanced diagnostics. Founded in 1979, Jupiter Medical Center is affiliated with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, and is currently in the midst of a major, multi-year growth plan which includes an Outpatient Center, additional ICU beds and a Heart & Vascular Center. The Medical Center has approximately 1,500 employees, 490 physicians and 700 volunteers.

For more information about the services available at Jupiter Medical Center, please call (561) 747-2234 or visit [www.jupitermed.com](http://www.jupitermed.com).

###