



Natividad Medical Center

PRESSRELEASE

For Immediate Release

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IN YOUR BACKYARD:

Natividad's Remarkable Emergency Department: *Treating up to 140 patients a day with an average 28-minute wait!*

Jeffrey Bass, M.D., Director of Natividad Medical Center's Emergency Department (ED), says the new Rapid Medical Evaluation (RME) program instituted last year at the county Hospital has reduced overall Emergency Room wait times from 3 hours to an average of 28 minutes.

Dr. Bass, who received the 2007 Distinguished Service Award from California Emergency Physicians for the improvements seen in the Emergency Department at Natividad says, "Our patients have been very pleased when we see them quickly, provide them with excellent quality, compassionate care and help them to understand their condition and what they can do for themselves at home to get better."

He continues, "My vision for the ED echoes the Hospital's VISION 2010 and emphasizes patient safety and high quality care combined with service excellence to provide our patients with the best possible experience given their adverse circumstances."

The RME program incorporates highly trained Emergency Department staff dedicated to assessing and treating patients based on the severity of their condition. Patients are rapidly seen and evaluated and then moved to the portion of the ED most suited to the severity of their injury or illness.

Jerry Joseph, Physicians Assistant (PA) at Natividad and leader of the RME program, received a Distinguished Service Award from the California Emergency Physicians Medical Group in 2007 for his achievements at Natividad and for his work with the Stanford University Physicians Assistant Training Program, where he is a professor.

Dr. Bass also serves on the Board of Directors of the Natividad Medical Foundation.