

# Report Released on Med Center

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East Meadow—The long-awaited accreditation report on Nassau County Medical Center was made public yesterday, and it listed 49 deficiencies—10 of them regarded as needing the highest priority for correction.

The report by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals called for more doctors in the hospital's crowded outpatient clinics. It also said the county-owned hospital needed to monitor its own medical services better.

Dr. James F. Collins, the center's superintendent, said many of the criticisms would be corrected when the center's new \$82,000,000 dynamic-care building opened soon. "The commission didn't understand our problems [in transition] here," Collins said. Accreditation by the commission is necessary if a hospital is to continue receiving Medicare and Blue Cross funds.

The commission's report gave the center a provisional one-year rating. (The usual rating is for two years.) The provisional rating technically constitutes full accreditation, but it does put a hospital on notice that it must bring certain areas up to commission standards within 12 months.

Dr. Henry K. Speed, a spokesman for the Chicago-based commission, said a total of 49 deficiencies was not "completely inconsistent" in the case of a one-year rating; but, he said, he had to consider it a "bad report . . . otherwise, it would have gotten two years."

The spokesman said the commission rated deficiencies on a scale of nine (highest priority) down to two. The scale is based, in part, on how important the service is and how far it is from the commission's standard. Speed said he had given a hospital a one-year accreditation on the basis of a single nine-point deficiency.

Among the needs at the center given highest priority were boosting staff coverage for outpatient medical service, reviewing outpatient medical records, and developing over-all plans for evaluating inpatient, outpatient and emergency care.

## A Voice for Patients?

County Executive Caso was reported to have reacted favorably to a recommendation that consumers be appointed to the board of managers of Nassau County Medical Center, according to Warren J. Freeman, the board's vice president.

Freeman was asked during a meeting at the center yesterday why consumers had not been named to the five-member panel, currently an all-establishment group that sets policy for the county-owned hospital. Freeman replied that the board has recommended to Caso,

who makes the appointments, that the panel be enlarged to include consumer representatives.

Consumer groups have called for such appointments, saying that the board would never be truly representative of the people who use the facility until blacks, the elderly, women, blue-collar workers and the poor serve on the board.

A spokesman for Caso would neither confirm nor deny whether Caso had decided to make such appointments but said an announcement on new board members was imminent.

Edward Gluckman, one of a dozen consumer representatives who attended yesterday's meeting at which Collins made the report public, pointed out that about a third of the report dealt with the hospital's need to evaluate its own medical care and to incorporate the findings into an education program for its staff. "I would personally be affronted if one out of three issues attacked the personal competence of my institution," said Gluckman, executive vice president of the New York City-based Consumer Commission on the Accreditation of Health Service.

Dr. Evelyn Wolf, chairman of the center's accreditation committee, said the staff's medical competence was not under attack. What was involved, she said, was merely a technical matter of paperwork that the commission had created by failing to give the hospital the necessary forms before the inspection. "If this was a paperwork problem," Gluckman said, "I would be screaming to the commission" about the one-year rating.

Collins said that, to get a clarification and to respond to some of the criticisms, he delayed releasing the report, received Nov. 7, for six weeks. A consumer representative said he saw no reason why Collins could not have done that within 10 working days.