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## Hospital Lets Public Give Views

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EAST MEADOW, L. I.—In what may become a trend for hospitals, the Nassau County Medical Center released its full accreditation report Wednesday and held a public meeting to invite comments.

The report included 50 recommendations for improving the quality of patient care. Ten were rated high priority. A spokesman for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, Dr. Henry K. Speed, said in a telephone interview from Chicago that the number of deficiencies were "not unusual under our new regulations, but it's more than we like to see." The center received a one-year accreditation rather than the two-year rating it has sought.

An increase in the outpatient medical staff and a more efficient system of evaluating and reviewing medical care were among the high priority items.

Dr. James F. Collins, superintendent of the center, said that many of the inadequacies cited would be rectified "when we move into our beautiful new hospital," referring to the new \$62-million Dynamic Care building.

He also said that many of the recommendations already had been put into effect.

### Many on Staff Attend

Dr. Collins had brought many of his staff members to the meeting, anticipating a barrage of questions, but the meeting in the center's McRae Auditorium drew a crowd of only about 40 outsiders and only a half a dozen of them gave their opinions.

In response to a question as to why a representative of the public patients had not been named to the center's board of managers, Warren J. Freeman, vice president, said that County Executive Ralph G. Caso was considering enlarging the five-member group and that the board had recommended adding consumer representatives.

A spokesman for Mr. Caso said Thursday that an unspecified number of appointments to the board would be announced next week but he declined to release any details. The county source said, however, that appointment of one or more consumer representatives "was likely."

### Medical Needs Cited

The chairman of the hospitals accreditation committee, Dr. Evelyn Wolf, conceded that the medical staff "is not adequate in all of the clinics."

She asserted, however, "the medical competence of the staff was not attacked. What was attacked is the basic bookkeeping."

The commission also recommended scheduling of outpatient visits to minimize waiting time, provisions for privacy in outpatient service areas and arrangements for interpreters.

These had been among the demands made at a stormy session last August attended by patients and community representatives. That meeting had been brought about largely by the efforts of a consumer group called Communities Advocates.

The group's organizer, Joan R. Saltzman, said she felt the Wednesday meeting had been "very positive but the report has indicated that there are a great number of areas that need working on."

Accreditation is required for a hospital to receive payments from Medicare and Blue Cross.