

Central Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat Receives Prestigious Accreditation for its Sinus and Temporal Bone CT Scanning Lab

SANFORD, N.C. – January 12, 2009 – Central Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) has been granted accreditation in the area of Sinus and Temporal Bone CT by the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Computed Tomography Laboratories (ICACTL). One of only two North Carolina-based ENT physician groups to currently hold this certification.

Participation in the accreditation process is voluntary, indicating a facility's commitment to computed tomography (CT) and a willingness to meet ICACTL's nationally recognized, intersocietal standards for providers of computed tomography procedures.

“By voluntarily seeking and acquiring accreditation, Central Carolina ENT has demonstrated its commitment to quality. We are delighted to recognize this facility as one of the first ICACTL accredited labs,” said Sandra Katanick, ICACTL chief executive officer.

Laboratories applying for accreditation are required to document detailed information about all operational and technical components and submit protocols and case studies. During the review process, every aspect of the laboratory's daily operations and its impact on quality of health care provided to patients are assessed and reviewed by a panel of experts.

“We are very serious about the top-of-line care in how we serve our patients. By submitting to this rigorous accreditation process, we believe patients are the ultimate winners,” said Dr. William C. LeLiever, a Central Carolina ENT founding partner.

Dr. LeLiever is one of the area's most experienced ENT surgeons, having performed more than 16,000 ear and nasal procedures. His team has expertise in many surgical procedures, including being the region's foremost experts in the Pillar Procedure, a minimally invasive treatment for snoring and sleep apnea.

“We decided to become accredited to balance out the playing field,” he said. “This demonstrates to major insurance companies that our in-house imaging lab meets the same standards as traditional imaging facilities, and far surpasses that of most ENT facilities.”

To fully understand the reasoning for this type of voluntary accreditation strikes to the heart of the Central Carolina ENT difference. Any patient who receives sinus or ear-related diagnosis has their tests either sent to a hospital or certified laboratory for results. In the process, they incur added delays and costs for these tests. Being among a select few ENT facilities with an accredited CT laboratory means patients have added convenience, reduced costs, and improved confidentiality in their testing procedures. Insurers benefit by dealing with one health provider source and knowing the tests are being completed by an accredited facility.

The ICACTL is comprised of nine sponsoring organizations: the American Academy of Neurology, the American Academy of Otolaryngology, the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, the American College of Cardiology, the American Society of Echocardiography, the Society of Cardiovascular

Angiography and Interventions, and the Society of Nuclear Medicine, along with at-large board members representing radiology.

The ICACTL is a member of the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC), a nonprofit organization that provides oversight to evaluate and accredit medical diagnostic imaging facilities on behalf of its member accrediting bodies: the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Vascular Laboratories (ICAVL) formed in 1990, the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL) formed in 1996, the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL) formed in 1997, and the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Magnetic Resonance Laboratory (ICAMRL) formed in 2000. Each of these organizations has developed a comprehensive, peer-review accreditation program for its respective medical specialty and is highly recognized for providing a mechanism for facilities to voluntarily demonstrate their commitment to quality care. Accreditation is recognized, and, in some cases, required by referring physicians, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), third party payers, and the public.

Central Carolina Ear, Nose & Throat helps its patients to breathe easier, providing comprehensive ENT health care from locations in Sanford and Apex, N.C. For more than 21 years, the Central Carolina ENT surgical staff has specialized in dizziness treatments, otology, chronic sinusitis, sleep medicine, head and neck oncology, and facial plastic surgery.

The physicians opened an Apex Medical Park location in 2007 beside the new WakeMed Apex Healthplex to more conveniently serve the Triangle region. The experienced and friendly staff of physicians, audiologists, estheticians, and medical care professionals operate a full-service clinic with otology, audiology, allergy, voice, sinus endoscopy, and sleep apnea treatments, in addition to caring pediatric ENT services. Visit online at <http://www.centralcarolinaent.com> or phone (877) 718-3277.