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Sleep HealthCenters and Brigham and Women's/Faulkner Hospitals Announce Collaboration on a Sleep Medicine Program at Faulkner Hospital

JAMAICA PLAIN, Mass.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jan. 19, 2005—

Specializes in Diagnosis and Treatment of Nighttime Seizure and Sleep Disorders

Sleep HealthCenters(R), a network of sleep medicine specialty centers and the largest provider of such services in Massachusetts, has announced an agreement with Brigham and Women's Neurology department and Brigham and Women's/Faulkner Hospitals for a Sleep HealthCenter and joint sleep medicine program at Faulkner Hospital in Jamaica Plain. This facility is unique among Sleep HealthCenters' six Boston area sites, as it is a combined medical and neurological sleep diagnostic laboratory.

Patients coming to the Faulkner Sleep HealthCenter can be evaluated for nocturnal seizure disorders as well as the standard sleep disorders, such as obstructive sleep apnea, insomnia, narcolepsy and restless legs syndrome. The laboratory is equipped with state of the art seizure detection capability in addition to standard sleep study equipment. It is staffed by sleep specialists and epilepsy specialists from Sleep HealthCenters and the Neurology department of BWH/Faulkner Hospitals.

Dr. Martin Allen Samuels, Chairman of the Department of Neurology, BWH/Faulkner Hospitals, commented, "The process of sleep is a neurological one, and as a result, many sleep disorders have a neurological basis. The sleep center at Faulkner, as part of the Brigham and Women's/Faulkner Department of Neurology, is uniquely equipped to assess neurological sleep disorders. Once identified, we can address them with a focused therapeutic approach."

The Medical Director of the new sleep medicine program is Dr. David White and the Associate Medical Director is Dr. Milena Pavlova, neurologist and sleep specialist. According to Dr. Pavlova, "Sleep comprises almost a third of our life under normal circumstances. Therefore, it can be expected to affect both normal and abnormal disease processes. Treating an identified primary sleep disorder, such as sleep apnea, can hasten treatment of other diseases, such as epileptic seizures or recovery from stroke. Our facility enables us to utilize many recent advances in evaluating patients for both sleep and nighttime seizure problems."

The Faulkner facility features comfortable, hotel-like bedrooms which offer patients privacy, a noise-free environment, and the opportunity to get the best sleep possible while being tested. Each room has a private bath, a TV, and soft lighting. In the morning following sleep studies, patients are offered coffee and tea before going on their way. Comprehensive sleep-related services are coordinated through Sleep HealthCenters' Newton facility, including physician clinics, Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) clinics, oral appliances, and behavioral therapies, such as relaxation techniques.

A patient recently treated at the Faulkner center, Patricia Morrison, said of her experience, "My doctor advised a sleep study because he suspected that I had severe sleep apnea. During the study at Faulkner Hospital, they took the time to ensure my complete comfort and put me at ease. I received individual attention, full explanations of what was going to happen, and helpful directions from Gail, my technician. I had a lovely room and my privacy and dignity were maintained at all times. All in all, it was a very pleasant experience due to the efficiency of the staff at the Sleep HealthCenter."

Paul S. Valentine, President and CEO of Sleep HealthCenters, said, "We are very pleased to offer our comprehensive services, including specialized neurology services, through this collaborative program with Brigham and Women's/Faulkner Hospitals. The central location of Faulkner Hospital allows us to expand our capacity, while also responding to a targeted need within the sleep medicine community. Working with the neurology staff of BWH/Faulkner and the latest diagnostic technology, we can provide sleep disorder diagnosis and treatment options that will help improve the health of individuals in the Greater Boston area."

Sleep HealthCenters offers comprehensive sleep medicine services, from diagnosis to treatment to follow-up. Multidisciplinary medical and clinical staffs, all sleep specialists, provide evidence-based care focused on achieving improved clinical outcomes and enhancing patient satisfaction. Sleep HealthCenters maintains close contact with a patient's own referring physician throughout the entire process, providing reports on a regular basis. Services are covered by most medical insurance plans.

The Sleep HealthCenter at Faulkner Hospital is located at 1153 Centre Street, 5th Floor, Jamaica Plain, MA. Sleep HealthCenters has other locations throughout eastern Massachusetts and is affiliated with the Brigham & Women's Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, McLean Hospital, and Hallmark Health. To inquire about services at the Faulkner Sleep HealthCenter, call 781-271-0588 or 877-SLEEPHC. To learn more about Sleep HealthCenters, visit www.sleephealth.com.

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