Lymphedema Prevention Program Press Release Template

**<Hospital Name> BEGINS NEW LYMPHEMDEMA PREVENTION PROGRAM TO IMPROVE CARE FOR CANCER SURVIVORS**

 ***Innovative Program Demonstrated to Reduce Progression of Secondary Lymphedema in Cancer Survivors by 95%***

<City>, <State>, USA - <Date> - <Hospital Name>, a provider of comprehensive cancer care to the <Local Region> community, today announced an innovative new program to reduce the development of secondary lymphedema in cancer survivors by 95%. The new program is located in the <cancer center name> and will include at-risk cancer patients across the system’s entire healthcare network.

“At <hospital name> we continually strive to provide the best possible care for our cancer patients,” said <Contact Name>, <Contact Title>, of <Contact Affiliation>. “For us this means both delivering excellent care to our patients during treatment and after they have beat the disease. Cancer survivorship is growing rapidly as a result of improved treatments and we are proud to be the first hospital in our region to offer lymphedema prevention as a service to our patients.”

Lymphedema is a leading post-treatment complication for many cancer patients that costs the U.S. healthcare system an estimated $7 billion every year. Patients who undergo surgical, radiation, or certain chemotherapy treatments for breast, melanoma, gynecologic, or urinary cancers may have damage to the lymphatic drainage system in one or more limbs. Lymphedema is characterized by buildup of lymphatic fluid that causes painful and sometimes debilitating tightness and swelling in an effected limb. There are nearly 17 million cancer survivors living in the U.S. and it is estimated that one in three of them will develop lymphedema. Previously cancer survivors were not routinely monitored, but now there is new technology to aid in the early detection of lymphedema.

The new lymphedema prevention program utilizes the latest lymphedema detection technology called L-Dex. L-Dex is a measurement of fluid buildup in an at-risk limb compared to a healthy limb. It is measured using a sophisticated technology called bioimpedance spectroscopy (BIS), which is capable of detecting fluid changes as small as 2.4 tablespoons. The BIS scan is non-invasive and takes less than 30 seconds to complete. At-risk patients receive a baseline measurement before treatment and then are measured regularly after treatment. An L-Dex increase of 6.5 or more is an indication that lymphedema is developing, and intervention is needed. Recent clinical studies show that this early detection combined with at-home intervention using a standard compression therapy can reduce the progression of lymphedema by 95%.

<Insert Hospital Boiler Plate and Media Contact Information>