Lymphedema Prevention Program Press Release Template

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

 ***Innovative Program Demonstrated to Stop Progression of Secondary Lymphedema in 92% of Breast Cancer Survivors through 3 Years***

<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 impact of secondary lymphedema in breast cancer patients and survivors. The new program is located in the <cancer center name> and will include breast cancer patients who are at risk of developing lymphedema from surgical, radiation, or taxane-based chemotherapy treatments.

“At <hospital name> we continually strive to provide the best possible care for our breast 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. Breast 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.”

Breast cancer-related lymphedema is characterized by buildup of lymphatic fluid that causes painful and sometimes debilitating tightness and swelling in the affected arm. There are over 290 thousand newly diagnosed breast cancer patients every year in the U.S. and 80% are at risk of developing arm lymphedema. Previously breast cancer patients 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 on the SOZO® system, which uses a sophisticated technology called bioimpedance spectroscopy (BIS). The SOZO test is non-invasive, takes less than 30 seconds to complete, and provides results immediately after the test. At-risk patients receive a baseline measurement and then are measured regularly after treatment. An L-Dex increase of 6.5 or more from baseline is an indication that lymphedema is developing, and intervention is needed. Recently published data from the largest randomized trial to assess lymphedema prevention, the PREVENT trial, showed that early detection using L-Dex combined with intervention can stop 92% of breast cancer patients from progressing to chronic lymphedema through three years.

<Insert Hospital Boiler Plate and Media Contact Information>