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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COTTAGE HOSPITAL RECOGNIZES NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Woodsville, NH – October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM). Since the program began in 1985, mammography rates have more than doubled for women age 50 and older and breast cancer deaths have declined.

This is exciting progress, but there are still women who do not take advantage of early detection at all and others who do not get screening mammograms and clinical breast exams at regular intervals. By providing breast screening in Mammography, Computer Aided Detection, and Breast Sonography, the Diagnostic Imaging Department at Cottage Hospital works closely with providers, surgeons, and other facilities to ensure comprehensive cancer screening, treatment and follow up is available to women in our community.

Despite programs like Ladies First and Cottage Care, women are still not taking advantage of screening programs... The American Cancer Society reports the following facts:

- Women age 65 and older are less likely to get mammograms than younger women, even though breast cancer risk increases with age.
- Women below poverty level are less likely than women at higher incomes to have had a mammogram within the past two years.
- Mammography use has increased for all groups except American Indians and Alaska Natives.

“If all women age 40 and older took advantage of early detection methods – mammography plus clinical breast exam – breast cancer death rates would drop much further, up to 30 percent,” states Karen Woods, Chief Mammographer at Cottage Hospital. “The key to mammography screening is that it be done routinely – once is not enough.”

For more information about NBCAM, please visit www.nbcam.org. For additional information, please call one of the following toll-free numbers: American Cancer Society, (800) 227-2345, National Cancer Institute (NCI), (800) 4-CANCER, Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization, (800) 221-2141.

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