

Hospital receives accreditation

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Watsonville Community Hospital has received accreditation from the American College of Radiology Mammography Accreditation Program.

Accreditation is awarded through a peer-review evaluation of the institution's staff qualifications, equipment, quality control, quality assurance programs, image quality and breast dose. Accreditation, a procedure that takes about six months to complete, must be renewed every three years.

The accreditation program, which is voluntary, was initiated in an effort to ensure qualified

personnel perform and interpret mammograms and that appropriate equipment is used. Mammography is an X-ray examination of the breast, which the American Cancer Society and other medical authorities regard as the best means for early detection of breast cancer.

"We believe accreditation is the trend of the future," said Rochelle Sjolseth, Watsonville Community Hospital's radiology manager.

The American College of Radiology embarked on its accreditation program, a pilot project, with the assistance of a grant from the American Cancer Society.