

# Memorial Health Care System

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 24, 2012

## *Memorial Launches Caregiver Support Group*

Chattanooga, TN – Memorial Health Care System is launching a new support group for family caregivers of cancer patients.

The caregiver Support Group will focus on improving quality of life and quality of care for oncology caregivers. The group will be facilitated by Memorial Chaplain Betsy Kammerdiener and Memorial Oncology Nurse Navigator Betsy Quinn.

“By focusing on the physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being of the caregiver we hope to relieve some of the distress that may result from caring for family or friends with cancer,” Rev. Kammerdiener said. “The unique challenges and needs of caregivers will be a topic of discussion.”

“It is not unusual for caregivers to experience feelings of anxiety, depression, fear, helplessness, anger, guilt and uncertainty,” Ms. Quinn added. “When a patient is in active treatment the caregiver is most focused on scheduling, medication management and other activities. Many caregivers experience an increase in anxiety as cancer treatments come to an end. Memorial’s Caregiver Support group is open to all caregivers whether their patient is newly diagnosed or has completed treatment.”

Memorial’s Caregiver Support Group will meet in the Joseph H. and Alice E. Davenport Outpatient Infusion Center at the Memorial Hospital Patient Entrance from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. on the last Monday of each month beginning in January 2012. The first session will be held on January 30, 2012. For more information, contact (423) 495-7778

**Memorial Health Care System** is a not-for-profit, faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to the healing ministry of the Church. Founded by the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth and strengthened as part of Catholic Health Initiatives, it offers a continuum of care including preventative, primary and acute hospital care, as well as cancer and cardiac care, orthopedic and rehabilitation services. Memorial is a regional referral center of choice with 4,000 associates and more than 700 affiliated physicians providing health care throughout Southeast Tennessee and North Georgia. Memorial Health Care System is recognized as one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® by Thomson Reuters, the health care industry's leading source of information on hospital quality. To learn more, visit [www.memorial.org](http://www.memorial.org).

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