



Media Contact: Pam Garretson
973-971-4932
Pamela.Garretson@atlantichealth.org

Gagnon Heart Hospital
100 Madison Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07962

For Immediate Release

SAVING A YOUNG MOTHER'S HEART, THEN HER BRAIN **Hospitals' Teamwork and New Cooling Technology Prevent Brain Damage after Cardiac Arrest**

MORRISTOWN, NJ, FEBRUARY 14, 2008 – Quick collaboration, expertise, and a cooling device called Arctic Sun saved a 41-year-old mother's heart and brain at Overlook and Morristown Memorial hospitals in New Jersey last month. This is the first time Morristown Memorial used the new technology, which has been available at the hospital since November 2007. Only about 15 percent of hospitals across the country use this novel cooling technology. The patient's story and the hospital physicians, nurses and staff who saved her can be seen on-line at <http://abcnews.go.com/WN/story?id=4286723&page=1>.

Christine Newport, a mother of three young girls had no risk factors and experienced flu-like symptoms when she had a heart attack in the parking lot of her daughters' school last month. Newport, of Cranford, was taken by ambulance to Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey, where she went into full cardiac arrest inside the Emergency Department. It took three shocks from a defibrillator to jumpstart Newport's heart. The patient then underwent a stent procedure in Overlook's Cardiac Catheterization Lab by interventional cardiologist [Barry M. Cohen, MD](#). She lost oxygen for several minutes — both from the cardiac arrest and because seizures caused her to bite down on her respiratory tube. The heart can survive loss of oxygen for 20 minutes; the brain only four minutes.

Timing and technology meant survival. Teams at Overlook and Morristown Memorial hospitals worked quickly to transport Newport to Morristown Memorial, where the cardiac critical care team immediately used the Arctic Sun "cold suit" to induce hypothermia. Newport's body temperature was stabilized at about 91 degrees for 24 hours. Just one week later, Newport was discharged from Morristown Memorial, having suffered minimal short-term memory loss. She is expected to make a full recovery.

The [Gagnon Heart Hospital](#) encompasses Overlook and Morristown Memorial's [cardiac services](#) with a 250,000-square-foot facility under construction on the Morristown campus.

###

About Morristown Memorial Hospital:

Part of Atlantic Health (atlantichealth.org), Morristown Memorial is a non-profit 629-licensed-bed hospital in Morristown, NJ, with more than 1,200 physicians. Morristown Memorial's specialties include cardiology and cardiac surgery, adult and pediatric oncology, critical and emergency care and inpatient rehabilitation and neonatal intensive care services. Morristown Memorial is also a Level II Regional Trauma Center and a Level III Regional Perinatal Center. Home to the largest cardiac surgery center in the state, Morristown's other services include the Goryeb Children's Hospital, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center, and North Jersey Regional Arthritis Center. In 2008, Atlantic Health will complete the new Gagnon Heart Hospital, a 250,000 square-foot facility that will consolidate all cardiovascular services at Morristown Memorial Hospital. Morristown Memorial is designated as a Magnet Hospital for Excellence in Nursing Service, the highest level of recognition by American Nurses Credentialing Center available to facilities that provide acute care services.

The hospital is accredited by The Joint Commission. As part of Atlantic Health, Morristown Memorial is an academic and clinical affiliate of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and The Mount Sinai Hospital.

T H E P A S S I O N T O L E A D