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PRESS RELEASE

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January 3, 2011

VASCULAR SCREENING TESTS AVAILABLE AT CHEROKEE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

On average, every 40 seconds someone in America has a stroke. Stroke occurs when a blood vessel feeding the brain bursts or is clogged, causing a sudden disruption in the blood flow to the brain. Stroke is a leading killer and the number one cause of adult disability in the United States.

On Thursday, January 20, 2011 Cherokee Regional Medical Center will offer two screenings at a low cost of \$35.00 per test. Both screenings are non-invasive, painless ultrasound tests that will take place in the Radiology Department. They will be offered by appointment only and you may choose one or both tests. In the Stroke/Carotid screening, pictures of the carotid artery (one of the major arteries carrying blood to the brain) in the neck are obtained to look for any signs of blockage in these important arteries. The Abdominal Aorta Aneurysm (AAA) screening test is aimed at detecting a potentially life-threatening aneurysm, a bulge or widening of the aorta (the main artery of the body).

- Bulging abdominal aortas can rupture...and they often kill when they do.
- Clogged carotid arteries in the neck can cause strokes that kill or disable victims.

If detected early, simple treatments can help many of these conditions when they are not yet severe. When screenings detect more advanced stages of vascular disease, such as a large aortic aneurysm or severely narrowed carotid arteries, patients can be treated by surgery. Up to 80 percent of all strokes are preventable with risk factor management.

Don't overlook this low cost screening opportunity offered by your local community hospital. A Board Certified Radiologist at Cherokee Regional Medical Center will interpret the results for these tests. Call the Radiology Department at Cherokee Regional Medical Center at 225-1501 to schedule your screening appointment for Thursday, January 20th from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

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