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**RE: GREY'S HOSPITAL OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS STATE-OF-THE-ART
ONCOLOGY & RADIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT**

THE Head of Department in KwaZulu-Natal, Dr. Busi Nyembezi, opened the-state-of-the-art Oncology & Radiotherapy unit today (29 May 2007 at 09h00.)

This hi-tech facility spells an end to the hospital's task to transport cancer patients to Durban to get treatment. The unit boasts the Linear Accelerator, Brachytherapy unit and the Acuity ® Imaging Simulator System valued at R35 million funded by the Department of Health.

Dr. Nyembezi, who remarked that she had just lost a sister due to cancer, said this was victory for the health fraternity.

"We would encourage people to come forward early so that cancer can be diagnosed and treated at an early stage. The facility will go a long way to treat cancer, particularly cervical cancer, breast cancer, prostate and colo-rectal cancer that are prevalent in the province," she said.

The head of department said the facility provides the full range radiotherapy treatments to cancer patients in the Western half of the Province.

Professor Ammo Jordaan, the Head of Radiation Oncology KwaZulu-Natal, says, "This will give us the equipment base to offer our patients the full range of external beam and brachytherapy radiotherapy treatments. Our equipment choice was based on a very rigorous selection process that involved multi-disciplinary teams from across the province".

"We wanted the very best equipment to meet our needs, some level of future-proofing so that we do not buy machines that are antiques within two to three years, and value for money as well. This machine is at the cutting edge of what radiotherapy has to offer and we are looking forward to working closely with Varian to expand the possibilities still further."

As part of the hospital's future development efforts, Image Guided Radiotherapy which enables more precise tumor targeting through better imaging and automatic patient repositioning on a daily basis with respiratory gating enabling clinicians more

time for treatment beam delivery in sync with the patient's normal breathing pattern will be offered later in the year. The centre will also be expanding its treatment programme to Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy (IMRT), a more precise form of radiotherapy that enables clinicians to increase doses while reducing exposure to healthy surrounding tissue.

Through its new equipment acquisition, Grey's Hospital will be at the leading edge of relatively fast treatment in which doctors use advanced imaging capability to more precisely place radiation sources within tumours.

The Varian equipment is supported and maintained by three highly-trained factory technicians from the KwaZulu-Natal based company TECMED AFRICA.

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