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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hospital plans multi-agency drill for bio-terrorism event

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Inglewood, California- In an effort to prepare the facility and staff to respond more adequately during a disaster, Centinela Hospital Medical Center is planning its first multi-agency bio-decontamination drill on **Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 0900 hrs**.

The Drill is an effort by the hospital as a first receiver and a mass-casualty facility to test its bio-decontamination capabilities, train its staff and test its communication mechanisms and protocols with outside responding agencies. The City of Inglewood, Inglewood Police Department, LA County Fire, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) groups, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), The Red Cross and Los Angeles Emergency Medical Services Agency will be among the agencies participating.

In the aftermath of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, the San Diego fires and most recently the Chino Hills 5.4 Earthquake, there is an increasing pressure on hospitals to test their disaster response efforts along with their emergency management plans. As first receivers, hospitals play a key role in the immediate care and safety of disaster victims, patients and the communities they serve.

"Continuous training on emergency management and disaster response must be provided to our staff to ensure adequate response in times of crisis. Drills such as this, help us test our emergency response plans, communications and staff competence, all with these goals in mind: excellence in patient care and business continuity," said Von Crockett, Chief Executive Officer for Centinela Hospital Medical Center.

Over 1,800 businesses and organizations throughout the state and across the nation will be conducting emergency preparedness-type activities during the month of September. The Department of Homeland Security has declared September *National Preparedness Month*.

"The City of Inglewood is looking forward to participating in this test of our emergency preparedness operations, in conjunction with Centinela Hospital Medical Center. Given our proximity to LAX and several major freeways, it is important to use exercises like this to maximize our preparations for a serious disaster which we hope will never come," said Timothy E. Wanamaker, Inglewood City Administrator.

"Disaster Preparedness is something this facility takes very seriously. Along with revising our emergency management plans, we have made a greater effort to look at mitigation and response planning through continuous disaster training for our staff. We will continue our commitment to provide the highest standard of care we can to our patients and disaster planning response and drills such as this are an extended part of that commitment," stated Crockett.

Centinela Hospital Medical Center is owned and operated by Prime Healthcare Services Inc., Victorville, Calif. Prime Healthcare Services Inc., is a progressive, innovative and rapidly expanding hospital management company in Southern With over 8,000 employees, Prime Healthcare currently owns and operates twelve acute care facilities with over 2000 beds: Centinela Hospital Medical Center in Inglewood (370-beds), Chino Valley Medical Center in Chino (126-beds), Desert Valley Hospital in Victorville (83-beds), Encino Hospital Medical Center in Encino (151-beds), Garden Grove Community Hospital and Medical Center (167-beds), Huntington Beach Hospital in Huntington Beach(141-beds), La Palma Intercommunity Hospital in La Palma(131-beds), Montclair Hospital Medical Center in Montclair(102-beds), Paradise Valley Hospital in National City (301-beds), San Dimas Community Hospital (93-beds), Sherman Oaks Hospital and the Grossman Burn Center in Sherman Oaks (153-beds) and West Anaheim Medical Center in Anaheim (219-beds) in California. Prime Healthcare's mission is to provide comprehensive quality healthcare in a compassionate, convenient and cost-effective manner. For more information please visit www.primehealthcare.com