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# Press Release

Emporia, Kansas – Due to a new acquisition, residents of Lyon County and surrounding areas may now breathe a little easier, literally. Newman Regional Health is proud to announce the acquisition of a Vmax 22 with Body Box that is wheelchair and bariatric patient accessible. The Vmax 22 performs a pulmonary function test which helps diagnose why a patient may be having difficulties breathing. Replacing the older machine, this updated equipment allows Newman Regional Health to provide patients with the latest advancements in pulmonary function test technology.

Manufactured by CareFusion, the Vmax 22 detects and displays vital information as to why a patient may have difficulty breathing. This is done by measuring the amount (volume) and/or speed (flow) of air a patient inhales or exhales. Test results display how a patient is breathing as well as identifying if there are any possible restrictive (inhaling air) or obstructive (exhaling air) diseases present.

Karen Schell, Registered pulmonary function technologist and Director of Cardiopulmonary Services at Newman Regional Health, is ecstatic to be able to offer the latest technology to local patients. “The new pulmonary equipment will provide our staff with the latest technology to provide testing for the diagnosis of lung

disorders,” stated Schell. “Our staff is highly trained, knowledgeable, caring and able to help the patient throughout the testing process.”

The Vmax 22 is the 3rd installment of a highly successful pulmonary equipment line. The Vmax 22 is able to perform a variety of tests that help physicians diagnose several lung disorders. A few of the specific tests that the Vmax 22 can complete include the pulmonary function test, methocholine challenge, diffusion lung capacity for carbon monoxide and others. Pulmonary function tests can also be used to assess the effect of medication or measure the progress in disease treatment. As well as disease diagnosis, the Newman Regional Health is also able to provide state disability testing.

Pulmonary function tests are typically ordered to find the cause of shortness of breath. Shortness of breath can develop from asthma, recovering from pneumonia and many other conditions. A pulmonary function test is a non-invasive test and will require approximately one to one and a half hours to complete. If you would like to see the equipment or have questions, please feel free to contact Karen Schell at (620) 341-7760.