Geriatric Risk Assessment Program
at SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood

When a loved one begins experiencing memory loss, confusion and other issues that limit everyday activities, it can be difficult for family members to know where to turn. Navigating the dizzying array of elder care choices can be stressful and overwhelming.

The Geriatric Risk Assessment Program at SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood provides a comprehensive view by evaluating the older patient physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. Adding to the effectiveness of the program is an in-home visit, which give professionals insight into the patient’s mood, activity level, living situation and care-giving issues.

Following a thorough assessment, families receive specific service recommendations so they can move ahead with confidence.

The Assessment
Assessments last approximately two hours and include:
• A complete medical history, physical examination and testing led by a board-certified gerontologist, along with other members of the St. Joseph Hospital medical staff; and
• An in-home assessment that includes mental, emotional, social and environmental evaluations from licensed professionals from Continuum Home Care.

The Report
Families can expect to receive the following:
• A report detailing test results, treatment, therapy and service recommendations;
• Referrals and resource information, including details on Medicare and private-pay options; and
• A post-assessment phone call from a Senior Services Registered Nurse to discuss the results and answer questions.

Assessment results also will be sent to the patient’s primary-care physician to help develop a care plan. The assessment cost typically is covered by traditional Medicare or private insurers.

About SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood
SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood is a not-for-profit, acute care community hospital and a member of SSM Health Care. In March 2009, St. Joseph Hospital will move to an innovative, state-of-the-art medical complex in southwest St. Louis County that will establish a new standard of excellence in health care for patients and doctors – and become SSM St. Clare Health Center (www.ssmstclare.com).

About Continuum Home Care
Continuum is a St. Louis company that is committed to meeting care needs at every stage of life. Its services include private duty home care, nursing, retirement community programs, personal emergency medical response systems, bill-paying services and geriatric care management.

To learn more, call the Geriatric Risk Assessment Program at 314-966-1580.