

For Immediate Release

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SAINT FRANCIS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL INITIATIVE

Only Hospital in Connecticut Named to Prestigious Study

(HARTFORD, Conn.) – Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been selected to participate in a *National Initiative to Improve Patient Care through Graduate Medical Education*. The Initiative is sponsored by the Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers (AIAMC), a national membership organization based in Chicago.

The AIAMC National Initiative (NI) is the first national and multi-institutional effort that focuses on the alignment of graduate medical education with hospital quality and safety strategies. The Initiative provides critical education, team training and support to participating hospitals, and equips participants with the tools and infrastructure necessary to accomplish meaningful improvements to patient care. Thirty-four AIAMC hospitals and health systems nationwide were selected to participate.

Saint Francis was selected based upon its demonstrated leadership in utilizing graduate medical education as a key driver to improve quality, patient safety and the cost-effectiveness of care. A leadership team from Saint Francis will collaborate with select hospitals from across the United States in designing and implementing a quality improvement plan that integrates graduate medical education and patient safety. Participants from Saint Francis will attend four on-site meetings and monthly conference calls during the 18-month period of the National Initiative.

“As the designated institutional officer for graduate medical education as well as the chief quality officer of the Hospital, I am delighted to participate in this worthwhile endeavor that integrates our graduate medical education objectives with patient safety. This initiative complements the innovative work in quality and patient safety that is currently happening at Saint Francis,” said Howard Shaw, M.D., M.B.A., Saint Francis’ Chief Quality Officer and Associate Professor at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

“Those of us in academic medicine realize that resident physicians play an important role in patient care at teaching institutions; however, residents are generally not visible in safety and quality efforts,” stated Kimberly Pierce-Boggs, Executive Director of the AIAMC. “Through our work in the National Initiative, we have found that resident-driven quality improvement

efforts – when shared across multiple programs and systems – result in improved patient care and improved education programs.”

The Alliance of Independent Academic Medical Centers was founded in 1989. Its membership includes approximately 70 major academic medical centers and health systems representing more than 350 senior medical academic leaders from Seattle to Maine. Membership in the association is unique in that AIAMC members are affiliated with medical schools but are independent of medical school ownership or governance. AIAMC members regard medical education and research as strategic assets in providing patient-centered care.

Founded in 1897, Saint Francis is a major teaching hospital licensed for 617 acute inpatient beds and 65 bassinets. It is the largest Catholic hospital in New England.