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For Immediate Release

St. Vincent's Receives "A" in Safety

Bridgeport, CT, May 14, 2013 - For the second year in a row, St. Vincent's has received an "A" Hospital Safety Score™ from the Leapfrog Group, an independent, national nonprofit run by employers and other large purchasers of health benefits. St. Vincent's is one of only two hospitals in Fairfield County, and one of only four out of 26 rated hospitals in the state to meet the criteria required for the "A" safety score.

"Receiving the Leapfrog "A" for two years in a row validates all the work that has been done at St. Vincent's by physicians, nurses and staff members from all disciplines to ensure a culture of safety and high reliability," said St. Vincent's Chief Medical Officer/Senior Vice President/Chairman of Cardiovascular Medicine Lawrence Schek, MD. "The community can be assured that safety and the best outcomes for patients continue to be our top priorities."

St. Vincent's has transformed its practices over the last several years through a focus on patient safety, and has mandated a "high reliability" safety training program for every employee regardless of position. Training all its physicians and associates throughout the system, even those not in clinical or caregiver roles, in behaviors and practices that reduce errors and improve safety, St. Vincent's empowered staff to speak up if they saw something that had the potential to be unsafe regardless of the situation.

The Medical Center also began conducting daily "safety huddles" or brief meetings at the start of the day for all managers to quickly identify and correct safety issues. Through these techniques and other error prevention tools, St. Vincent's made safety its highest priority.

The Hospital Safety ScoreSM was calculated under the guidance of The Leapfrog Group's Blue Ribbon Expert Panel using publicly available data on patient injuries, medical and medication errors, and infections. U.S. hospitals were assigned an A, B, C, D, or F for their safety.

The Leapfrog Group uses 26 measures on which to base each hospital's grade. Those measures include process, structure and outcome. Data is collected from

several sources including CMS Hospital Compare, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Leapfrog Hospital Survey and the American Hospital Association's annual survey.

St. Vincent's "A" Safety Score is one of several recent honors for the hospital. In 2012, the Medical Center became the only Fairfield County hospital to achieve Magnet® recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. St. Vincent's also won the John D. Thompson Award from the Connecticut Hospital Association in 2012 for its safety program. St. Vincent's has also been featured by the Joint Commission as a model of a high reliability organization.

To see St. Vincent's scores as they compare nationally and locally, visit www.hospitalsafetyscore.org, the Hospital Safety ScoreSM website, which also provides information on how the public can protect themselves and loved ones during a hospital stay. For more information on St. Vincent's safety programs and recognition, please visit www.stvincents.org/safety

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About The Leapfrog Group

The Leapfrog Group (www.leapfroggroup.org) is a national organization using the collective leverage of large purchasers of health care to initiate breakthrough improvements in the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for Americans. The flagship Leapfrog Hospital Survey allows purchasers to structure their contracts and purchasing to reward the highest performing hospitals. The Leapfrog Group was founded in November 2000 with support from the Business Roundtable and national funders, and is now independently operated with support from its purchaser and other members.

St. Vincent's Medical Center

St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, CT is a 473-bed community teaching and referral hospital with a Level II trauma center and a 76-bed inpatient psychiatric facility in Westport. St. Vincent's provides a full range of inpatient and outpatient services over 50 specialty and subspecialty medical and surgical disciplines with regional centers of excellence in cardiology, surgery, cancer care, orthopedics, diagnostics, women's and family services, behavioral health, senior health and an array of specialized services. St. Vincent's is one of only four state hospitals to receive an "A" Hospital Safety Score® from Leapfrog Group, and recently won the John D. Thompson Award for its high reliability safety program from the Connecticut Hospital Association.

St. Vincent's Medical Center is a subsidiary of St. Vincent's Health Services, which include St. Vincent's Behavioral Health Services, Westport Campus, Hall-Brooke Behavioral Health Services, St. Vincent's College, St. Vincent's Special Needs Services, St. Vincent's Medical Center Foundation and St. Vincent's Urgent Care Walk-in Centers. It is a member of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic healthcare system. St. Vincent's is a teaching affiliate of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and of New York Medical College, and is the principal clinical partner for Quinnipiac's Frank H. Netter, MD, School of Medicine set to open in 2013. The Medical Center is also sponsor of Swim Across the Sound, one of the nation's largest hospital-based cancer

prevention and patient support programs. For referral to a St. Vincent's physician or more information on programs and services, call the toll-free Care Line at 1-877-255-SVHS (7847) or visit www.stvincents.org.

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