



For Immediate Release

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**New Comprehensive Women's Health Center Opens at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center**  
***Introduces new dimension of integrated healthcare for women***

(HARTFORD, Conn. October 23, 2013) – Saint Francis Care introduces the *Comprehensive Women's Health Center at Saint Francis*, a new dimension of healthcare for women in our region. The 24,500 square-foot, \$9.1 million facility, located on the footprint of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center's former Emergency Department, is designed to provide a comfortable and inviting place for women to receive coordinated specialty care. The transformation of the space began in October, 2012, and opens with a ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

"The *Comprehensive Women's Health Center* is a true collaboration of multiple services provided under one roof," stated Christopher M. Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer for Saint Francis. "Focused on disease prevention, risk assessments, and wellness, the *Comprehensive Women's Health Center* demonstrates our ongoing commitment to integrated, coordinated healthcare for women."

"The *Comprehensive Women's Health Center* at Saint Francis brings together dedicated services from the Comprehensive Breast Health Center, the Women's Heart Program, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Center for Integrative Medicine," stated John Rodis, M.D., Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Physician Executive for Saint Francis. "By providing coordinated, compassionate care, the *Comprehensive Women's Health Center* will make a positive and progressive difference in the lives of women throughout the community."

Patients will benefit from world-class clinicians and personalized protocols provided by a nurse navigator to coordinate overall routine care, along with the opportunity to schedule a variety of appointments in a single day.

The *Comprehensive Women's Health Center* also offers the latest imaging technology including 3D breast tomosynthesis imaging, ultrasound elastography, stereotactic image-guided breast biopsies, and bone density scans. A new 3T MRI scanner with advanced scanning capabilities has been installed in the MRI department adjacent to the new *Center*.

The additional square footage at the new *Comprehensive Women's Health Center* has allowed the *Breast Health Center* to increase the number of breast imaging systems available for patients. Eight spacious exam rooms allow space for the patient's clinical team or family members. Radiologists and breast surgeons will be on site for breast imaging and minor surgical services. Same-day mammogram results will be available.

The Kavorski Genetics Program, offering genetic counseling and testing to patients believed to have a genetic cancer syndrome, will be expanded to improve access to this specialty service. At the *Comprehensive Women's Health Center*, we will have a certified Genetic Counselor on site full time, allowing us to assist women and families who are at high risk of hereditary cancers such as breast cancer, ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, and other female hereditary cancer syndromes. Experienced genetic counselors will discuss a patient's personal and family history to help determine if genetic testing is right for them as well as providing options for prevention strategies in consultation with the patient's physician.

The Saint Francis *Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology* will offer leading-edge services to women thanks to specialists in menopause, osteoporosis, and pelvic floor disorders. *The Comprehensive Women's Health Center* will be the new home for the breastfeeding support group, and the lactation department will be expanding its services to include outpatient lactation consultation.

The Saint Francis *Women's Heart Program*, which in the last seven years has helped over 8,500 women with the tools to make changes in their lives to stay healthy through free education and cardiac risk assessments, will help reach even more women in the fight against this deadly disease with cardiac evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and exercise programs.

The *Integrative Medicine* program at the *Center* will provide a holistic approach to care and healing with acupuncture, massage, nutritional consultation, energy therapies, herbal remedies and supplements to helping with pain, anxiety, sleep issues and childbirth.

In addition to the services listed above, a wide variety of educational programs with emphasis on prevention, health and wellness will be offered at the *Center* throughout the year.

Decorated in hues of serene blues and warm earth tones, the *Center* features an inviting outdoor garden and free valet parking in an environment designed to lead to a better experience for women.

### **About Saint Francis Care**

Saint Francis *Care* is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis *Care* include The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research, and Saint Francis Health*Care* Partners. Johnson Memorial Medical Center, parent organization of Johnson Memorial Hospital, Evergreen Health Care Center, and Home and Community Health Services is also a Saint Francis *Care* Partner. Saint Francis *Care's* services are supported by a network of seven major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit [www.stfranciscare.com](http://www.stfranciscare.com).