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**SAINT FRANCIS RECEIVES RECOGNITION
FOR EXCELLENCE IN ORTHOPEDICS**

(Hartford, Connecticut, October 7, 2014) – The prestigious *Becker's Hospital Review* has included Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center in the 2014 edition of its list of "125 Hospitals and Health Systems with Great Orthopedic Programs."

Saint Francis is one of only two healthcare facilities in Connecticut to make the list.

The hospitals and health systems featured on the list have orthopedic surgery departments, programs or dedicated centers that have earned recognition from reputable sources including *Consumer Reports*, *U.S. News & World Report*, Healthgrades, CareChex and Blue Cross Blue Shield. Exceptional orthopedic departments include physicians who provide outstanding care to patients, author front-line orthopedic research, and treat professional athletes.

"The *Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute* has an unmatched record of quality achievements and recently took that a major step further with certification as an ISO 9001:2008 facility," said Steven F. Schutzer, M.D., CJRI Medical Director. "Recognition from organizations like Becker's is a tribute to our staff and their dedication to ensuring quality outcomes for all of our patients."

This is the fifth year *Becker's Hospital Review* has compiled this list, and the first time it has included 125 hospitals.

"The *Spine Institute of Connecticut at Saint Francis* offers a unique collaboration of orthopedics and neurosurgery to solve complex cases and heal the patient," said Howard Lantner, M.D., Co-director of the *Spine Institute*. "We are honored to be one of only two Connecticut healthcare facilities on the list."

"Our goal at *The Spine Institute* is to provide comprehensive care to our patients from the moment they arrive, through their discharge and rehabilitation planning," said David Kruger, M.D., Co-Director, *Spine Institute*. "To be recognized as a national leader in orthopedic programs in such an elite group is indeed an honor."

The *Becker's Hospital Review* editorial team weighted national publication rankings and quality industry awards in their assessments, and conducted editorial research to compile this year's list.

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 five major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit www.stfranciscare.com.