

Contact:

Lucinda I. Ames 203-576-5550

Lames@stvincents.org

For Immediate Release

**NATIONAL STUDY: St. Vincent's Medical Center Is 5-Star Rated for Coronary
Interventional Procedures for the 2nd Year in a Row 2012-2013**

*New Healthgrades Study Finds Patients Treated at Hospitals Receiving 5 Stars Have a 75%
Lower Risk of Dying*

Bridgeport, CT, October 23, 2012- – St. Vincent's Medical Center today announced that it has received a 5-star rating for coronary interventional procedures for the 2nd year in a row by Healthgrades, the leading provider of information to help consumers make an informed decision about a physician or hospital. This recognition is part of new findings released today in *American Hospital Quality Outcomes 2013: Healthgrades Report to the Nation*, which evaluates the performance of approximately 4,500 hospitals nationwide across nearly 30 procedures and conditions. A 5-star quality measurement indicates that St. Vincent's Medical Center's clinical performance is better than expected.

Healthgrades bases its objective hospital quality measures solely on clinical performance and updates them annually, free to the public. The 2013 performance outcomes are now available at www.healthgrades.com.

St. Vincent's Medical Center is a recipient of the following Healthgrades accolades:

Cardiac

- **Five-Star Recipient for Valve Surgery in 2013**
- **Five-Star Recipient for Coronary Interventional Procedures for 2 Years in a Row (2012-2013)**

“This third-party endorsement validates the outstanding patient care provided by our physicians, nurses, clinical and support staff which has allowed St. Vincent's to remain a leader in cardiovascular care in the region for many years,” said Chief Medical Officer, Senior Vice President and Chairman of Cardiovascular Medicine Lawrence S. Schek, MD, FACC. “Thanks to our board-certified cardiologists and state-of-the-art technology, St. Vincent's has been at the forefront of advances and is able to consistently deliver award-winning cardiac care to our patients.”

Also contributing to its outstanding record of coronary interventional outcomes is the fact that St. Vincent's has implemented a high reliability safety program across all its services, and recently was one of only four hospitals in the State to receive an “A” Hospital Safety Score from the Leapfrog Group, a national organization dedicated to improving the safety, quality and affordability of health care for Americans. The Connecticut Hospital Association awarded the

Medical Center the 2012 John D. Thompson Award for its safety program, and it was also recognized by Consumer Reports as one of the top five safest hospitals in the State.

For its analysis, Healthgrades evaluated approximately 40 million Medicare hospitalization records for services performed from 2009 through 2011 at approximately 4,500 short-term, acute care hospitals nationwide. Healthgrades found that patients treated in hospitals receiving 5 stars had, on average, 75% lower risk of dying than if they were treated in hospitals receiving 1 star (across 18 common procedures and diagnoses, such as heart bypass surgery, stroke, and pneumonia).

In this year's report, Healthgrades also analyzed findings over its last five study periods (2005-2011) to provide an overview of trends in hospital quality over a longer period. Among its key findings, Healthgrades found that the nation's average in-hospital risk-adjusted mortality rate improved 22% for procedures and conditions studied by Healthgrades over the last seven years. Healthgrades independently measures hospitals based on data that hospitals submit to the federal government. No hospital can opt in or out of being measured, and no hospital pays to be measured. Healthgrades risk adjusts for patient demographic characteristics and clinical risk factors, thereby taking into account how sick patients are upon hospital admission.

More information on the *American Hospital Quality Outcomes 2013: Healthgrades Report to the Nation*, including the complete methodology, can be found at www.healthgrades.com/quality.

St. Vincent's Cardiovascular Services

The Healthgrades designation demonstrates that interventional cardiologists at St. Vincent's excel in minimally invasive cardiac diagnosis and non-surgical treatment techniques including cardiac catheterization, coronary angiography and angioplasty, vascular angiography and angioplasty, coronary and vascular stenting, treatment of peripheral vascular obstructions, electrophysiology procedures that encompass placement of pacemakers, defibrillators and catheter treatment of arrhythmias including atrial fibrillation. Cutting edge techniques such as radial artery access are being used at St. Vincent's to minimize complications and provide greater patient comfort. Advanced cardiac techniques such as the Impella device are being used to treat and support patients with the weakest hearts.

These non-surgical techniques to diagnose and treat heart problems are all performed in St. Vincent's three state-of-the-art Interventional Catheterization Labs, which allow three patients to be treated simultaneously, which is of vital importance for emergency procedures. Patients are immediately treated with catheterization services and possibly angioplasty and stenting to relieve blood vessel blockage. Catheterization and angioplasty services are available 24/7.

St. Vincent's offers a nationally recognized and award-winning program performing complex cardiovascular and cardiothoracic surgery with state-of-the-art interventions in coronary bypass surgery, advanced aortic aneurysm surgery, and complex aortic valve surgery and mitral valve repair surgery, producing excellent outcomes for patients on both an elective or emergency basis.

Innovations include minimally invasive procedures for valve surgery, coronary artery bypass graft, lung cancer surgery, and the latest, most advanced version of the “mini-maze” surgery in conjunction with trans-catheter ablation to correct atrial fibrillation, a procedure known as hybrid ablation. This past spring, a St. Vincent’s cardiothoracic surgeon performed the first robotic coronary artery bypass graft in the region using the da Vinci Robot SI system.

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