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**SAINT FRANCIS RECEIVES 2014 PATIENT SAFETY EXCELLENCE AND WOMEN'S HEALTH EXCELLENCE AWARDS™ FROM HEALTHGRADES**

*Hartford, CT (June 24, 2014)* – Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center announced today that it has received the 2014 *Patient Safety Excellence Award™* and the *Women's Health Excellence Award*, according to Healthgrades, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals.

“These awards are truly a reflection of our commitment to patient safety and quality healthcare for all our patients,” said Christopher M. Dadlez., President and Chief Executive Officer, Saint Francis Care. “Day in and day out, we strive to provide our patients with the very best hospital experience. Whether it’s a routine screening or more involved surgery, each patient receives exemplary care.”

The *Patient Safety Excellence Award* distinction places Saint Francis within the top 10% of all hospitals for its excellent performance in safeguarding patients from serious, potentially preventable complications during their hospital stays.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Saint Francis has received this prestigious patient safety award, and one of only two Connecticut hospitals to earn the distinction this year.

The *Women's Health Excellence Award* distinguishes Saint Francis as a top-performing hospital in women's health. Saint Francis is one of only 178 recognized nationally for their outcomes for care provided to women for common conditions and procedures treated in the hospital.

Saint Francis is on the only hospital in Connecticut to earn this distinction for women's health excellence.

During the 2014 study period (2010-2012), *Patient Safety Excellence Award* hospitals showed better than expected performance in providing safety for patients in the Medicare population, as measured by objective outcomes (risk-adjusted patient safety indicator rates) across 13 of the 14 patient safety indicators defined by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). If all hospitals performed at the same level of award recipients, 266,813 patient safety events among Medicare patients in U.S. hospitals potentially could have been avoided.

When compared to hospitals performing in the bottom 5% for patient safety, patients treated in *Healthgrades 2014 Patient Safety Excellence Award* recipient hospitals, on average, were:

- 73% less likely to experience pressure sores or bed sores acquired in the hospital compared to hospitals ranked in the bottom 5% in the nation.<sup>1</sup>
- 72% less likely to experience a hip fracture following surgery compared to hospitals ranked in the bottom 5% in the nation.<sup>1</sup>
- 67% less likely to experience catheter-related bloodstream infections acquired at the hospital compared to hospitals ranked in the bottom 5% in the nation.<sup>1</sup>

*Healthgrades 2014 Women's Health Excellence Award* recipient hospitals have the potential to save women's lives. Compared to hospitals that performed in the bottom 10% from 2010 through 2012, *Healthgrades Women's Health Excellence Award* recipients as a group had a 55% lower mortality rate across eight conditions and procedures and a 21% lower complication rate across seven conditions and procedures.<sup>2</sup> If all hospitals nationwide performed at the level of the *Healthgrades Women's Health Excellence Award* hospitals:

- 22,737 women's lives could have potentially been saved
- 30,577 women could have potentially avoided in-hospital complications

"Healthgrades is dedicated to providing quality information that helps consumers make decisions based on objective data leading to the best care for themselves and their families," said Evan Marks, Executive Vice President, Informatics and Strategy, Healthgrades. "Consumers can rest assured that a hospital recognized with a *Healthgrades 2014 Patient Safety Excellence Award* has demonstrated an established commitment to patient safety.

"Women tend to fare worse than men in the treatment of significant medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, so it is important for women to understand their risks and select a hospital accordingly," added Marks. "The *Healthgrades 2014 Women's Health Excellence Award* recipients have demonstrated exceptional performance and a dedicated approach to delivering superior quality care for women."

For more information about Healthgrades or to download a full copy of the report or to receive information about hospital and physician quality, visit: [www.Healthgrades.com/quality](http://www.Healthgrades.com/quality) today.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics are based on Healthgrades application of QI Windows® Software (version 4.4), developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), to MedPAR data for years 2010 through 2012 and represent 3-year estimates for Medicare patients only

<sup>2</sup> CMS MedPAR Data (2010-2012)

**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](http://www.stfranciscare.com).