



NATIONAL ACCREDITATION PROGRAM FOR BREAST CENTERS
ACCREDITED BREAST CENTER

For Immediate Release

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**THE COMPREHENSIVE BREAST HEALTH CENTER AT SAINT FRANCIS
RECEIVES THREE-YEAR ACCREDITATION FOR QUALITY CARE**

Women Receive Specialized Care in State-of-the-Art Facility

(Hartford, Conn. June 24, 2013) – *The Comprehensive Breast Health Center* at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been granted a three-year/full accreditation designation by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a program administered by the American College of Surgeons.

Accreditation by the NAPBC is given only to those centers that have voluntarily committed to provide the highest level of quality breast care and that undergo a rigorous evaluation process and review of their performance. During the survey process, the center must demonstrate compliance with standards established by the NAPBC for treating women who are diagnosed with the full spectrum of breast disease. The standards include proficiency in the areas of center leadership, clinical management, research, community outreach, professional education, and quality improvement. A breast center that achieves NAPBC accreditation has demonstrated a commitment to offer its patients every significant advantage in their battle against breast disease.

At the *Comprehensive Breast Health Center at Saint Francis*, Medical Director and Breast Surgeon, Kristen Zarfos, M.D., and a team of surgeons, radiologists, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, and pathologists work together to promote overall breast health in women. The specialized care is provided in a state-of-the-art facility where breast cancer patients receive personalized treatment and same-day mammography results.

“If a patient comes in for a routine mammogram and an abnormality is discovered, or she has an abnormal clinical finding, our goal is to provide additional diagnostic studies the very same day,” said Dr. Zarfos. “Oftentimes a patient will tell me that this immediate and personalized care creates a level of trust in our ability to help them through a difficult process,” added Dr. Zarfos.

In addition to the advanced care provided at the *Comprehensive Breast Health Center*, the same group of physicians meets regularly through a ‘multidisciplinary conference.’ Doctors representing all specialties present patient cases, including profiles, diagnoses, pathology and x-

rays. Together, they develop a comprehensive recommendation and map out a tailored plan of the patient's care.

“Not only do we meet regularly, but every day we are in constant communication with our radiology, medical oncology and radiation oncology teams about our patients,” added Dr. Zarfos.

In addition, the *Comprehensive Breast Health Center* provides care customized to each woman and her family's needs. A nurse navigator and social worker with specialized training in the care of women with breast issues are available for each patient as needed. A breast cancer support group and survivorship program is also available if a patient chooses.

The NAPBC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to the improvement of the quality of care and monitoring of outcomes of patients with diseases of the breast. This mission is pursued through standard-setting, scientific validation, and patient and professional education. Its board membership includes professionals from 20 national organizations that reflect the full spectrum of breast care.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimated that there would be 232,340 patients diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in the United States in 2013¹. In addition, hundreds of thousands of women who will deal with benign breast disease this year will require medical evaluation for treatment options.

Receiving care at a NAPBC-accredited center ensures that a patient will have access to:

- Comprehensive care, including a full range of state-of-the-art services
- A multidisciplinary team approach to coordinate the best treatment options
- Information about ongoing clinical trials and new treatment options

And, most importantly,

- Quality breast care close to home.
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For more information about the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers, visit their Web site at www.accreditedbreastcenters.org.

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. Its 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.

1. American Cancer Society *Cancer Facts & Figures 2013*. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2013.