



For Immediate Release

Contact: Fiona Phelan
Media Relations Manager
860.714.1076/ 860.712.8517
fphelan@stfranciscare.org

SAINT FRANCIS AWARDED STROKE CENTER ACCREDITATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

(Hartford, Conn. – August 6, 2014) – Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has earned The Joint Commission’s *Gold Seal of Approval*® for accreditation of its Stroke Center by demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission’s national standards for healthcare quality and safety. The accreditation award recognizes Saint Francis’s dedication to continuous compliance with state-of-the-art standards in its primary care stroke center operations.

During a rigorous, on-site survey in May, a Joint Commission expert surveyor evaluated Saint Francis for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of stroke patients.

"With Joint Commission accreditation, we are making a significant investment in quality on a day-to-day basis from the top down. Joint Commission accreditation provides us a framework to take our organization to the next level and helps create a culture of excellence," said Christopher M. Dadlez, President and Chief Executive Officer at Saint Francis. "Achieving Joint Commission accreditation for our organization is a major step toward maintaining excellence and continually improving the care we provide."

The Joint Commission’s hospital standards are developed in consultation with healthcare experts, providers, measurement experts and patients.

"In achieving Joint Commission accreditation, Saint Francis has demonstrated its commitment to the highest level of care for its patients," says Mark G. Pelletier, R.N., M.S., chief operating officer, Division of Accreditation and Certification Operations, The Joint Commission. "Accreditation is a voluntary process and I commend Saint Francis for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate its standard of care and instill confidence in the community it serves."

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating healthcare organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 20,000 healthcare organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 10,600 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,600 other healthcare organizations that provide long term care, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission also

certifies more than 2,400 disease-specific care programs such as stroke, heart failure, joint replacement and stroke rehabilitation, and 400 health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.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. 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