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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saint Francis Care Receives American College of Cardiology Award for Cardiac Care

NCDR ACTION Registry – GWTG Platinum Award recognizes high standards

(Hartford, Conn., July 13, 2015) – Saint Francis Care has received the American College of Cardiology’s *NCDR ACTION Registry–GWTG Platinum Performance Achievement Award* for 2015. Saint Francis Care is one of only 319 hospitals nationwide to receive the honor.

The award recognizes Saint Francis’s commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients and signifies that Saint Francis has reached an aggressive goal of treating these patients to standard levels of care as outlined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association clinical guidelines and recommendations.

To receive the *ACTION Registry–GWTG Platinum Performance Achievement Award*, Saint Francis consistently followed the treatment guidelines in the ACTION Registry–GWTG Premier for eight consecutive quarters and met a performance standard of 90 percent for specific performance measures. Full participation in the registry engages hospitals in a robust quality improvement process using data to drive improvements in adherence to guideline recommendations and overall quality of care provided to heart attack patients.

“We are gratified to have received this award for five years in a row, the only hospital in Connecticut to consistently achieve this exceptional care,” said Daniel Diver, M.D., Director, Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute. “The award shows our commitment to our heart attack patients and the excellence of the team of nurses, physicians, and other clinicians who care for them.”

“The American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association commend Saint Francis Care for its success in implementing standards of care and protocols. The full implementation of acute and secondary prevention guideline-

recommended therapy is a critical step in saving the lives and improving outcomes of heart attack patients,” said James Jollis, M.D., FACC, ACTION Registry-GWTG Chair and Professor of Medicine and Radiology at Duke University Hospital.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that over 700,000 Americans suffer a heart attack each year. A heart attack occurs when a blood clot in a coronary artery partially or completely blocks blood flow to the heart muscle. Treatment guidelines include administering aspirin upon arrival and discharge, timely restoration of blood flow to the blocked artery, smoking cessation counseling and cardiac rehabilitation, among others.

ACTION Registry–GWTG is a partnership between the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association with partnering support from the American College of Emergency Physicians and the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care. ACTION Registry-GWTG empowers healthcare provider teams to consistently treat heart attack patients according to the most current, science-based guidelines and establishes a national standard for understanding and improving the quality, safety and outcomes of care provided for patients with coronary artery disease, specifically high-risk heart attack patients.

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.

About the American College of Cardiology

The American College of Cardiology is a 49,000-member medical society that is the professional home for the entire cardiovascular care team. The mission of the College is to transform cardiovascular care and to improve heart health. The ACC leads in the

formation of health policy, standards and guidelines. The College operates national registries to measure and improve care, provides professional medical education, disseminates cardiovascular research and bestows credentials upon cardiovascular specialists who meet stringent qualifications. For more information, visit *ACC.org*.