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For Immediate Release

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St. Vincent's Medical Center Earns "Top Performer" Recognition from The Joint Commission

Bridgeport, CT, October 30, 2013 – St. Vincent's Medical Center today was named *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures*® by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in America. St. Vincent's was recognized by The Joint Commission for exemplary performance in using evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to improve care for certain conditions. St. Vincent's is being recognized for the following measures: heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

"We understand that what matters most to patients at St. Vincent's is safe, effective care," says Stuart Marcus, MD, FACS, president, St. Vincent's Medical Center. "That's why we have made a commitment to accreditation and to positive patient outcomes through evidence-based care processes. St. Vincent's is proud to receive the distinction of being a Joint Commission *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures*."

St. Vincent's is one of 1,099 hospitals in the U.S. earning the distinction of *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures* for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance. The ratings are based on an aggregation of accountability measure data reported to The Joint Commission during the 2012 calendar year. The list of *Top Performer* organizations represents 33 percent of all Joint Commission-accredited hospitals reporting accountability measure performance data for 2012.

As a *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures*, St. Vincent's must: 1) achieve cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures; 2) achieve performance of 95 percent or above on each and every reported accountability measure where there are at least 30 denominator cases; and 3) have at least one core measure set that has a composite rate of 95 percent or above, and within that measure set all applicable individual accountability measures have a performance rate of 95 percent or above. A 95 percent score means a hospital provided an evidence-based practice 95 times out of 100 opportunities.

As a *Top Performer*, St. Vincent's has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to quality improvement and they should be proud of their achievement," says Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP, M.P.P., M.P.H., president and chief executive officer, The Joint Commission. "We have much to celebrate this year. Nearly half of our accredited hospitals have attained or nearly attained the *Top Performer* distinction. This truly shows that we are approaching a tipping point in hospital quality performance that will directly contribute to better health outcomes for patients."

In addition to being included in today's release of The Joint Commission's "*Improving America's Hospitals*" annual report, St. Vincent's will be recognized on The Joint Commission's Quality Check website (www.qualitycheck.org). The *Top Performer* program will be featured in the December issues of *The Joint Commission Perspectives* and *The Source*.

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St. Vincent's Medical Center

Founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1903, St. Vincent's Medical Center is a mission-driven organization committed to exceptional health care for all with special consideration for the poor and underserved. St. Vincent's Medical Center is a subsidiary of St. Vincent's Health Services, and a member of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic and largest non-profit healthcare system, and is at the forefront in patient safety and quality, with a focus on creating holistic, compassionate environments. St. Vincent's has been ranked Best Hospital in Fairfield County and in all of Western Connecticut for 2013-2014 by *U.S. News & World Report* in its annual "Best Hospitals" survey. Recently the recipient for the fourth consecutive time of the "A" Hospital Safety Score" from the Leapfrog Group, St. Vincent's Medical Center is also the only hospital in the state currently to receive both the Leapfrog "A" and Nursing Magnet® Recognition, the highest national award for nursing excellence. The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer awarded St. Vincent's an Outstanding Achievement Award with Accreditation in 2012, and it has also earned its designation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Cancer. For more information on programs and services, call the toll-free Care Line at 1-877-255-SVHS (7847) or visit www.stvincents.org.

About The Joint Commission

The Joint Commission (<http://www.jointcommission.org>) is an independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Joint Commission accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards.

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