



HEART HOSPITAL of NEW MEXICO

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STUDY FINDS Heart Hospital of New Mexico IS ranked #1 in the state for Overall Cardiac Care

Rating Based on Study of Patient Outcomes at the Nation's Hospitals by HealthGrades

Albuquerque, NM (October 13, 2009) – Heart Hospital of New Mexico today announced that in addition to being ranked #1 in state for Overall Cardiac Care, they are also the only hospital in New Mexico to be a recipient of the HealthGrades five star rating for Treatment of Heart Attack. The recognition is based on HealthGrades' twelfth annual *Hospital Quality in America* study, released today, which analyzes patient outcomes at virtually all of the nation's hospitals.

Additionally, Heart Hospital of New Mexico is also a recipient of the HealthGrades Patient Experience Excellence Award.

"The Heart Hospital of New Mexico was the state's first hospital dedicated to the prevention and treatment of heart disease and we have been a leader in cardiovascular care for the past decade," said Ron Winger, President and CEO of Heart Hospital of New Mexico. "We work with the state's best physicians, nurses and staff to provide compassionate, patient-centered care with great outcomes. We are proud to be ranked the best in the state for overall cardiac care by HealthGrades."

The HealthGrades study, the largest annual report of its kind, analyzed patient outcomes in nearly 40 million Medicare hospitalization records from 5,000 hospitals over the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. This year's study found:

- Across all 17 procedures and diagnoses in which mortality was studied, there was an approximate 72% lower chance of dying in a 5-star rated hospital compared to a 1-star rated hospital, and a 52% lower chance of dying in a 5-star hospital compared with the national average.
- If all hospitals performed at the level of a 5-star rated hospital across the 17 procedures and diagnoses studied, 224,537 Medicare lives could potentially have been saved from 2006 through 2008.

The new 2010 HealthGrades hospital ratings were posted today at www.healthgrades.com, HealthGrades' public Web site.

HHNM attributes several key initiatives in reaching this quality achievement. First, a morning report is held with physicians and staff to discuss each patient individually and how they are being cared for. Secondly, the hospital has integrated the physicians with all aspects of the governance structure and day-to-day operations. Finally, their Hospitalist program provides continuity of care for all patients.

HealthGrades Ratings

HealthGrades' hospital ratings and awards reflect the track record of patient outcomes at hospitals in the form of mortality and complication rates. HealthGrades rates hospitals independently based on data that hospitals submit to the federal government. No hospital can opt in or out of being rated, and no hospital pays to be rated.

For 28 procedures and treatments, HealthGrades issues star ratings that reflect the mortality and complication rates for each category of care. Hospitals receiving a 5-star rating have mortality or complication rates that are below the national average, to a statistically significant degree. A 3-star rating means the hospital performs as expected. One-star ratings indicate the hospital's mortality or complication rates in that procedure or treatment are statistically higher than average. Because the risk profiles of patient populations at hospitals are not alike, HealthGrades risk-adjusts the data to allow for apples-to-apples comparisons.

More information on today's HealthGrades study, including the complete methodology, can be found at www.healthgrades.com.

The Heart Hospital of New Mexico is located on an 8-acre campus near downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico. To learn more about the hospital, please visit www.hearthospitalnm.com

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