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**PALM BEACH GARDENS MEDICAL CENTER RECOGNIZED FOR
IMPLEMENTING QUALITY HEART DISEAS AND STROKE CARE**

PALM BEACH GARDENS, JULY 2011 — Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center has been recognized for achievement in using evidence-based guidelines to provide the best possible care to patients through the American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines[®] program.

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and 789 other hospitals are featured in a special advertisement in the “America’s Best Hospitals” issue of *US News & World Report* (August issue) to commemorate their receipt of the Get With The Guidelines Stroke Gold Plus, and Get With the Guidelines Heart Failure Silver Performance Achievement Awards. A total of 931 awards were given for achievement in heart attack, stroke and heart failure treatment.

Hospitals recognized in each category achieve at least 85 percent compliance to Get With The Guidelines measures. Those achieving 85 percent compliance for 24 consecutive months receive the Gold Performance Achievement Award, with the Silver Performance Achievement Award going to those with 85 percent compliance for 12 consecutive months. Special recognition is also given for those hospitals achieving 85 percent compliance in two or all three categories and/or for being in 75 percent compliance with heart failure and/or stroke measures.

Get With The Guidelines is a hospital-based quality-improvement program designed to ensure that hospitals consistently care for heart and stroke patients utilizing the most up-to-date guidelines and recommendations. Currently more than 1,400 hospitals participate in the program.

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s advertisement recognizes Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center’s commitment and success in performance achievement.

“We are pleased to recognize the top Get With The Guidelines participants,” said. Lee Schwamm, M.D., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines steering committee, associate professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and Vice Chairman of Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital. “Healthcare providers who use Get With The Guidelines are armed with the latest evidence-based guidelines and immediate access to clinical decision support, using a set of tools that have been shown to improve delivery of evidence-based care.

The goal of this initiative is to improve the quality of life and help reduce deaths and disability among patients with heart disease and stroke.”

Published scientific studies are providing us with more and more evidence that Get With The Guidelines works. Patients are getting the right care they need when they need it. That’s resulting in improved survival.”

“We are proud that the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association has chosen the ‘America’s Best Hospitals’ issue of *US News & World Report* to recognize Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center for our achievements in their Get With The Guidelines program,” said Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center’s CEO, Mike Cowling. “Get With The Guidelines gives our professionals the tools and reports they need to effectively treat our patients.”

About Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center

Ranked as one of “America’s 50 Best Hospitals” for the fifth year in a row,* Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center is a 199-bed acute care hospital serving the medical and health care needs of Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast for more than 40 years. Fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, PBGMC was the first hospital in Palm Beach County and the Treasure coast to perform open-heart surgery and has since remained one of the area’s leading heart hospitals, providing comprehensive cardiac care. PBGMC also offers orthopedics, diagnostic imaging, general surgery, outpatient surgery and more.

The hospital has recently completed the 13.6 million dollar Emergency Room expansion, with more than triple the amount of space as before allowing the hospital to meet the needs of the growing Northern Palm Beach communities.

For more information or physician referral, please call 561-625-5070 or visit www.pbgmc.com.

About Get With The Guidelines

Get With The Guidelines® is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that empowers healthcare teams to save lives and reduce healthcare costs by helping hospitals follow evidence-based guidelines and recommendations. For more information, visit heart.org/quality.

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