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Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and Delray Medical Center Among HealthGrades America's 50 Best Hospitals

- *Study Ranks Hospital in Top 5% in the Nation for five years in a row* -

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (February 23, 2011) – Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and Delray Medical Center announced today that its superior clinical quality has placed it among an elite group of U.S. hospitals: HealthGrades America's 50 Best Hospitals. To be recognized with this distinction, hospitals must have had risk-adjusted mortality and complication rates that were in the top 5% in the nation for the most consecutive years. On average, patients treated at America's 50 Best Hospitals had a nearly 30% lower risk of death and 3.45% lower rate of complications.

"At Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, we pride ourselves on providing the best care possible for all of our patients and strive to bring quality clinical care to every person who comes to our hospital," said Mike Cowling, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center chief executive officer.

HealthGrades study found that if all U.S. hospitals had performed at the level of Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and Delray Medical Center more than a half million Medicare deaths could have been prevented between 1999 and 2009. The study was based on an analysis of more than 140 million Medicare patient records.

"Delray Medical Center is proud to accept the prestigious distinction as one of America's 50 Best Hospitals," said Mark Bryan, Delray Medical Center chief executive officer. "This award confirms our hospital's successful efforts to provide high quality services and care to our local community."

"As our nation searches for a solution to providing American's with access to high quality health care at an affordable price, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and Delray Medical Center are setting the standard, demonstrating that consistent, sustainable clinical excellence is achievable," said Dr. Rick May, HealthGrades vice president of clinical quality services and co-author of the report.

HealthGrades Americas 50 Best study compared the performance of hospitals like Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and Delray Medical Center to all others and found:

• If all hospitals performed at the level of the HealthGrades America's 50 Best, Approximately 55,000 Medicare patient deaths, or 550,000 over the last decade, could have been prevented.

• Compared with all other hospitals, the HealthGrades America's 50 Best had risk adjusted mortality rates that were, on average, 28.59% lower and risk-adjusted in hospital complication rates that were 3.45% lower.

• 86% are not-for-profit or local government entities

• For some procedures and treatments, the variation was much wider. For treatment of pneumonia, the 50 Best hospitals had, on average, a 43.82% lower risk-adjusted mortality, and for treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease the hospitals had, on average, 42.81% lower risk adjusted mortality.

A copy of the full report on HealthGrades America's 50 Best Hospitals can be found at http://www.healthgrades.com.

In addition, both Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and Delray Medical Center were each recently named as a Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence™ by HealthGrades. This prestigious distinction places Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and Delray Medical Center among the Top 5% of hospitals nationwide for clinical performance.

HealthGrades Hospital Quality and Clinical Excellence study released on January 26, 2011 objectively identifies those hospitals with the best overall clinical performance across all 26 medical diagnoses and procedures that the organization rates. These 268 top-performing hospitals represent only 5% of the nation's hospitals and each is designated as a HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence™.

About Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center

Ranked as one of "America's 50 Best Hospitals" for the fourth 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 provides 24-hour emergency care, and is in the process of doubling the size of the ER to help accommodate the area's growing population.

Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center also received HealthGrades' Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence eight years in a row and ranked among the top 5% in the nation for overall cardiac care and cardiology services, and the top 10% for cardiac surgery and cardiology procedures*.

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

About Delray Medical Center

For more than 25 years, Delray Medical Center, a 493-bed acute care hospital, has served the communities of South Palm Beach County. As both a community hospital and Level II Trauma Center located on a 42-acre medical plaza, Delray Medical Center has the ability to offer several specialized services including Cardiac Care, Orthopedics, Rehabilitation, Neurosciences, Emergency/Trauma Care, Behavioral Health, and more.

For the past five years, Delray Medical Center has been named one of America's 50 Best Hospitals by HealthGrades, a leading independent healthcare ratings organization. Delray Medical Center is one of only 269 hospitals ranked in the top 5% in the nation for patient outcomes according to HealthGrades, achieving the HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence Award™. Delray Medical Center was one of just 13 hospitals in South Florida- and one of five in Palm Beach County- that received this recognition for its clinical performance.

Several specialized services lines have also earned high achievements. Delray Medical Center's designation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) confirms that the hospital's care programs follow national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve the outcomes for stroke patients. This designation followed Delray Medical Center's accreditation by the Joint Commission as a Primary Stroke Center.

For its orthopedics, Delray Medical Center is a Blue Distinction Center for Spine Surgery and Knee and Hip Replacement by Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Delray Medical Center's cardiovascular care has also been the recipient of several awards. The hospital was featured in a special advertisement in the "America's Best Hospitals" 2010 issue of US News & World Report to commemorate their receipt of the *Get With the Guidelines* Coronary Artery Disease GOLD Award, GOLD Heart Failure Award, and GOLD Plus Stroke Award. In addition, Delray Medical Center was recently named one of America's "Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospitals" by a Thomson Reuters. Selected from more than 1,000 U.S. hospitals, Delray Medical Center was chosen based on its record of providing high-quality and effective cardiovascular care.

Delray Medical Center is actively involved in community outreach, sponsoring many events, community lectures and fundraisers. The hospital is also a smoke free campus. For more information or a physician referral, please call 1-800-897-9789 or visit the website at www.delraymedicalctr.com

About HealthGrades
HealthGrades is America's most trusted, independent source of physician information and hospital quality outcomes. HealthGrades' online properties are the nation's leading destination for physician search and empower more than 200 million consumers annually to make informed health care decisions.

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