



Palm Beach Gardens
Medical Center

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HealthGrades Names Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center Among America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care and Coronary Interventions

- Patients Increasingly Seek Information on Quality of Healthcare Providers Online with More Than 335,000 Residents Who Searched Annually -

Palm Beach Gardens, FL (Oct. 18, 2011) – A report released today by HealthGrades, the nation's most trusted, independent source of physician information and hospital quality outcomes, named Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center among America's 100 Best Hospitals for both stroke care and coronary interventions. Palm Beach Gardens is the best performing hospital in Palm Beach County for cardiology services including treatment of heart attack and heart failure patients, and coronary interventional procedures such as angioplasties and stents.

According to the report, patients in the West Palm Beach market area are increasingly seeking such quality information online, with 335,069 patients, or 18% of area residents, visiting HealthGrades.com in the past year. And for good reason: Choosing a hospital can be a life or death decision. A quality comparison of doctors and hospitals in the West Palm Beach market area can be found online at: www.topcities.healthgrades.com/ratings/westpalmbeach-fl.

"We know that patients are more and more educated about their health and have a choice when it comes to which hospital they will choose to receive their healthcare, said Mike Cowling, chief executive officer of Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center. "Earning this HealthGrades designation as one of America's 100 best hospitals for heart and stroke care speaks to Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center's commitment to quality- we work hard to deliver healthcare that patients can trust."

"Patients today have a wide array options when it comes to choosing a health care provider," said Kerry Hicks, HealthGrades chief executive officer. "At HealthGrades, we are proud to have led the way for empowering patient choice based on objective clinical outcomes and access to actionable quality measures. We commend Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center for its superior quality and support of consumerism and transparency in the Palm Beach County area."

HealthGrades report found that patients treated at 5-star rated hospitals experience a 73% lower risk of mortality and a 63% lower risk of complications. Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center received HealthGrades highest rating – 5-stars – in the following areas:

- Overall cardiology services

- Coronary interventional procedures
- Treatment of heart attack
- Treatment of heart failure
- Treatment of stroke

Key findings of HealthGrades *Healthcare Consumerism and Hospital Quality in America* report include:

- If all Medicare patients from 2008 through 2010 had been treated at 5-star hospitals, 240,040 lives could have potentially been saved.
- In an online survey, 80% said they are very or somewhat concerned about the quality of hospital care in their community.
- In an online survey, 42% of HealthGrades visitors said that they believe their chances of experiencing an unexpected death or complication is higher in some hospitals in their community compared to others.

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.

*Ranked by HealthGrades, a leading independent healthcare ratings company.

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