



BON SECOURS
ST. FRANCIS HEALTH SYSTEM

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**NATIONAL STUDY:
BON SECOURS ST. FRANCIS HEALTH SYSTEM
Rated FIVE STARS for
JOINT REPLACEMENT, TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT
and HIP FRACTURE REPAIR**

*National Study of Patient Outcomes in 5,000 Hospitals
Puts Bon Secours St. Francis Health System Among the Best*

Greenville, SC (October 13, 2009) – Bon Secours St. Francis Health System receives a 5-star rating for Joint Replacement from HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization, as part of a national study of patient outcomes in the nation's 5,000 nonfederal hospitals. The study found that 5-star-rated hospitals had, on average, an 80% lower rate of complications than hospitals rated by HealthGrades as 1-star.

Additionally, Bon Secours St. Francis Health System is a recipient of five star ratings for Total Knee Replacement and Hip Fracture Repair. Earlier this year, Bon Secours St. Francis Health System was named a recipient of the 2009/2010 Outstanding Patient Experience Award™.

“These achievements are an outstanding reflection of a total commitment to pursuing excellence in patient care,” comments Mary Jo Cagle, MD, Chief Medical Officer of Bon Secours St. Francis Health System. “The five-star ranking is HealthGrades’ highest possible rating; it is a tribute to how our physicians and staff members work together throughout every level of the organization achieving new levels of patient safety but also best possible patient outcomes.”

“St. Francis is pursuing a strong focus in clinical transformation”, continues Dr. Cagle. “These ratings are evidence that innovative St. Francis programs such as our Geriatric Fracture Center and Joint Camp are truly national ‘models of best practice’ – significantly improving patient outcomes while reducing costs.”

A wide variation in quality exists among American hospitals, according to the twelfth annual *HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America* study. Patients were 80 percent less likely to experience a major complication in 5-star rated hospitals when compared with 1-star rated hospitals across a range of procedures studied such as knee replacement and hip replacement surgeries. Top-performing hospitals also dramatically outperformed the national average, with

patients experiencing, on average, 61 percent fewer in-hospital complications among the procedures studied.

The study also found that if all hospitals performed at the level of a 5-star rated hospital, 110,687 orthopedic in-hospital complications may have been avoided among Medicare patients over the three years studied.

HealthGrades Ratings

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.

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.

About Bon Secours St. Francis Health System

Founded in 1932, Bon Secours St. Francis Health System is a community of caregivers devoted to bringing compassion to healthcare and **good help to those in need**® through the ministry of Jesus Christ. Bringing our communities to health and wholeness, St. Francis offers comprehensive health services including: Cardiac Care, Cancer Treatment, Orthopedic and Spine, General and MiniSurgery, Women's Health Services, St. Francis HomeCare, Open Arms Hospice, Community Ministries Outreach Services, St. Francis Foundation Philanthropic Services and WorkWell Business Health Services.

To learn more about Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, a top performer in the nation for patient satisfaction, visit www.stfrancishealth.org.

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