



Northside Medical Center

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTHSIDE MEDICAL CENTER RANKED #1 IN THE STATE OF OHIO FOR OVERALL ORTHOPEDICS

*Among other numerous awards – NMC also ranked in Top 10% in the Nation
for Overall Orthopedic Services and Joint Replacement.*

[YOUNGSTOWN, OH] (December 2, 2009) – Forum Health’s Northside Medical Center has been ranked #1 in the state of Ohio for overall orthopedic services by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization.

In addition, Northside is part of the nation’s top 10% for overall orthopedic services and joint replacement and is the recipient of the HealthGrades Orthopedic Surgery Excellence Award™ and Joint Replacement Excellence Award™ for its national performance.

Northside Medical Center’s Orthopedic Center for Excellence also racked up five star ratings in Overall Orthopedic Services, Joint Replacement, Total Knee Replacement, Total Hip Replacement and Hip Fracture Repair.

“Our staff has always been highly skilled and deeply caring in equal measure, and I was not surprised to find out they are the very best in the state of Ohio,” said Michael Seelman, Chief Operating Officer.

HealthGrades will be at Northside Medical Center to honor employees at an award presentation tomorrow.

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. Among the findings related to in-hospital complications in this year’s study are:

- Across all procedures in which complications were studied, there was a 79.69% lower chance of experiencing one or more in-hospital complications in a 5-star rated hospital, like Northside Medical Center, compared to a 1-star rated hospital.
- Across all procedures studied, there was a 61.22% lower chance of experiencing one or more in-hospital complications in a 5-star rated hospital, like Northside Medical Center compared to the U.S. hospital average.
- If all hospitals performed like Northside Medical Center, 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.

The new 2010 HealthGrades hospital ratings are posted at www.healthgrades.com

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.

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