

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
October 23, 2012

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**ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL AMONG AMERICA'S 100 BEST HOSPITALS  
FOR CARDIAC SURGERY TWO YEARS IN A ROW**

**Springfield, IL**– St. John's Hospital – Prairie Heart Institute's Cardiac program today received a top honors from Healthgrades, the leading provider of information to help consumers make an informed decision about a physician or hospital. The findings are part of *American Hospital Quality Outcomes 2013: Healthgrades Report to the Nation*, which evaluates the performance of approximately 4,500 hospitals nationwide across nearly 30 of the most common conditions and procedures.

Patient outcomes are important to consumers making choices today about hospitals. According to new research conducted by Harris Interactive for Healthgrades, 86 percent of Americans in 27 top designated market areas agree they would be more likely to choose—or not choose—a hospital if they could learn ahead of time the mortality rates for a certain procedure.

**Other notable HealthGrades recognitions include:**

America's Best 100 Hospitals

- One of HealthGrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery™ for Two Years in a Row (2012-2013)
- One of only nine hospitals in IL to receive the HealthGrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery™ Award in 2013
- Only Hospital in the region\* to receive the HealthGrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Surgery™ Award for Two Years in a Row (2012-2013)

Cardiac

- Recipient of the HealthGrades Cardiac Surgery Excellence Award™ for Three Years in a Row (2011-2013)
- Ranked Among the Top Five Percent in the Nation for Cardiac Surgery for Two Years in a Row (2012-2013)
- Ranked #4 in IL for Cardiac Surgery in 2013
- Ranked Among the Top 10 in IL for Cardiac Surgery for Three Years in a Row (2011-2013) (Ranked 4 in 2013)
- Five-Star Recipient for Cardiac Surgery for Two Years in a Row (2012-2013)
- Five-Star Recipient for Coronary Bypass Surgery for Three Years in a Row (2011-2013)
- Five-Star Recipient for Valve Surgery for Four Years in a Row (2010-2013)
- Five-Star Recipient for Treatment of Heart Failure for Three Years in a Row (2011-2013)

"We are proud to provide outstanding care that patients can trust," said Bob Ritz, President and CEO of St. John's Hospital. "Prairie Heart Institute is a world-renown cardiac center that delivers the best cardiac care possible. This recognition from HealthGrades is just one more acknowledgement of our clinical excellence that is focused on the well-being of our patients during and after their experience at St. John's."

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According to the Healthgrades study, the risk of death is 58 percent lower at hospitals receiving five stars versus all other hospitals. The 2013 performance outcomes are now available free to the public at [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com).

For its 2013 hospital quality outcomes analysis, Healthgrades evaluated approximately 40 million Medicare hospitalization records for services performed from 2009 through 2011 at approximately 4,500 short-term, acute care hospitals nationwide. Healthgrades independently measures hospitals based on data that hospitals submit to the federal government. No hospital can opt in or out of being measured, and no hospital pays to be measured. Mortality and complication rates are risk adjusted, which takes into account each hospital’s unique population (demographics and severity of illness).

The *American Hospital Quality Outcomes 2013: Healthgrades Report to the Nation*, including the complete methodology, can be found at [www.healthgrades.com/quality](http://www.healthgrades.com/quality).

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### **About Hospital Sisters Health System**

Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy, at each of its 13 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit [www.hshs.org](http://www.hshs.org).

### **About St. John’s Prairie Heart Institute**

Prairie Heart Institute is a national leader in cardiovascular care. PHI was named by Thomson Reuters as one of the nation’s 50 Top cardiovascular hospitals for 2012. PHI was also named by Healthgrades as number one in Illinois for cardiac surgery in 2012 and five-star rated for overall cardiac services for the past three years (2010-2012).

**\*Region is Springfield, IL as defined by the federal government’s Office of Management and Budget**

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