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Contact:  
Erica Smith 217-544-6464, Ext. 44307  
Erica.smith@St-Johns.org

## **THE JOINT COMMISSION GIVES PRAIRIE HEART ADVANCED HEART FAILURE DESIGNATION**

SPRINGFIELD -- Prairie Heart Institute at St. John's Hospital has been designated an Advanced Heart Failure Center by The Joint Commission for providing high quality care to patients suffering from Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) .

To earn this distinction, the PHI Heart Failure program underwent an extensive on-site evaluation by a Joint Commission reviewer. The program was evaluated against Joint Commission standards through an assessment of a program's processes, the program's ability to evaluate and improve care within its own organization, and interviews with patients and staff.

"Prairie Heart voluntarily pursued this comprehensive, independent evaluation to enhance the safety and quality of care we provide," said Dr. Stephen Jennison, M.D., medical director of St. John's CHF program. "We're proud to achieve this distinction."

The Joint Commission's designation recognized several of Prairie Heart's initiatives to provide better care for CHF patients. These initiatives include evidence based order sets for continuity of care; efforts to educate staff and patients about heart failure; outreach to area hospitals in treating CHF patients through its STAT Heart Failure program; the Hospital to Home (H2H) program which is designed to help patients better manage CHF upon discharge from the hospital; and multi-disciplinary outpatient clinics. Prairie Heart's commitment to quality care for CHF patients has led to its distinction as being the only hospital in Illinois last year to perform better than the national average for the readmission rate for heart failure.

"The Joint Commission evaluator said she found quality heart failure care embedded throughout our organization. Every one at St. John's Hospital works together to give the best care to heart failure patients. Hospitals that are recognized for Get With the Guidelines bronze award (which we also received earlier this year) and advanced heart failure certification have been shown to have better outcomes for their patients," said Claire Call, RN, Heart Failure and Cardiac Rehab Manager.

### **About Prairie Heart Institute at St. John's Hospital**

Prairie Heart Institute performs more cardiac procedures than any other hospital in the state of Illinois and is consistently ranked among the best heart hospitals in the country. All 47 Prairie board certified physicians serve patients in 38 communities throughout central, southern and northern Illinois. This network provides convenient, quality care at the

community level and makes the highest quality of heart care available to urban and rural residents throughout the region. For more information call Prairie Heart Institute at 217-544-6464 ext. 44574 or visit [www.prairieheart.com](http://www.prairieheart.com).

### **About The Joint Commission**

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 18,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 9,500 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,300 other health care organizations that provide long term care, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. In addition, The Joint Commission also provides certification of more than 1,000 disease-specific care programs, primary stroke centers, and health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).