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GUADALUPE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER ACHIEVES 5-STAR RATING FOR JOINT REPLACEMENT

HealthGrades rates the quality of nearly 5,000 U.S. hospitals

Five-Star ratings indicate statistically-significantly better patient outcomes

Seguin, Texas (October 14, 2008) – Guadalupe Regional Medical Center has received a top five-star rating for the quality of its Joint Replacement surgery program by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings company. The rating places GRMC in the top 15% nationwide of nearly 5,000 hospitals providing orthopedic surgery.

Highlights of Guadalupe Regional Medical Center's scores in the HealthGrades study include five-star (the highest) 2009 ratings for:

- *Total Knee Replacement*
- *Hip Fracture Repair Two Years in a Row (2008 & 2009)*

"This is a prestigious and significant award," said GRMC's CEO Robert Haynes, "reflecting our commitment to excellence. The contributions of our physicians and staff members and the quality healthcare they provide made this designation possible. This is objective statistical evidence that we are performing at a very high level compared to other hospitals."

“We are so proud of this achievement,” added GRMC’s Director of Nursing Kim Deese. “Our orthopedic surgeons, Drs. Deetjen, Sahni, and White, and a broad range of our hospital departments—including the OR, surgical floor, anesthesia, rehab, dietary, housekeeping, pharmacy, lab, imaging, and ER—all contribute to the total care received by our patients. To be among the top 15% of hospitals is a true honor and we recognize everyone on the team for these outstanding results.”

In addition to the excellence of physicians and staff, GRMC’s administration attributes the high ratings to a variety of initiatives, including hospital quality expert Quint Studer’s “Hardwiring Excellence” program, Code of Excellence, and setting specific quality and service goals. “We’re focused on excellence every day,” said Haynes. “We’ve worked hard to align everyone on common hospital-wide goals for both clinical and service excellence.”

GRMC’s five star ratings were included in the eleventh annual *HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study*, which analyzed more than 41 million Medicare hospitalization records from 2005 to 2007 at the nation’s approximately 5,000 non-federal hospitals. Each hospital receives a star rating based on its patient outcomes in terms of mortality or complication rates for each procedure or treatment. For example, complications can include hospital-acquired infections, heart and lung difficulties during or after surgery, and excessive bleeding. The ratings mean that joint replacement surgery patients at GRMC had below average complications and mortality and 85% of hospitals did not perform as well as GRMC.

Health Grades staff will present Guadalupe Regional Medical Center with an award recognizing the hospital’s Superior Clinical Performance in Joint Replacement at a ceremony on Thursday, November 6, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., in the Selig Room, at 1331 E. Court St. Hospital staff, physicians, volunteers, and members of the community are invited to attend.

HealthGrades offers, free to consumers, quality ratings so that consumers can easily compare patient outcomes for procedures ranging from total knee surgery to cardiac bypass surgery. Hospitals with outcomes that are above average to a statistically significant degree receive a five-star rating. Hospitals with average outcomes receive a three-star rating, and hospitals with outcomes that are below average receive a one-star rating. Because no two hospitals or their patients' risk profiles are alike, HealthGrades employs extensive risk-adjustment algorithms to ensure that it is making analogous comparisons.

Guadalupe Regional Medical Center, located in Seguin, contributes \$32 million per year to the local economy in salaries and benefits and with 700 employees is the fifth largest employer in Guadalupe County. More than 60 local physicians, practicing in 25 specialties, are actively affiliated with the Medical Center. GRMC provides comprehensive health care services for the residents of Guadalupe, Caldwell, Comal, Gonzales, Hays, Karnes, and Wilson counties. Having earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™, Guadalupe Regional Medical Center is fully accredited. Jointly owned by the City of Seguin and Guadalupe County, GRMC is a not for profit community hospital. By providing state-of-the-art surgery and endoscopy facilities, breakthrough imaging technology, and expert clinical support, GRMC partners with physicians to provide superior health care that is available locally. Last year, the hospital admitted 5,500 patients, handled 28,000 Emergency Department visits, 760 births, and performed more than 3,000 surgeries.

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