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Reasons to be Thankful for GRMC

**GUADALUPE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
CELEBRATES QUALITY ACHIEVEMENTS**

Seguin, Texas (November 24, 2008) – This month Guadalupe Regional Medical Center is recognizing and celebrating the continuing success the hospital has achieved in several areas. While undergoing a \$100 million expansion and renovation begun earlier this year, that will more than double the size of the hospital, GRMC is being recognized for the quality of its patient care. In addition to being recently selected for the highest possible rating for the quality of its Joint Replacement surgery, GRMC has earned several other distinctions.

Guadalupe Regional Home Health Services has been named to the 2008 Home Care Elite, the compilation of the most successful home care providers in the United States. This prestigious designation names the Medicare-certified agencies whose performance measures in quality of care and quality improvement are among the top 25% of home health care providers nationwide. This is the third year in a row that Guadalupe Regional Home Health Services has received this important award.

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In addition, the hospital has achieved extremely low infection rates compared to other hospitals. The addition of T. Adam Kaspar, MD, Infectious Disease specialist to the Medical Center's medical staff last year, and other quality initiatives has helped Guadalupe Regional to lower infection rates to far below national averages. For example, the national standard for post-operative surgical site infection rates is 2.0% or less. The average post-operative surgical site infection rate for surgeries performed at GRMC is 0.8%--less than half the national average.

Guadalupe Regional Medical Center also recently 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. Only hospitals with outcomes, including low complication and infection rates, which are above average to a statistically significant degree, receive the highest five-star rating. Highlights of Guadalupe Regional Medical Center's scores in the HealthGrades study include five-star 2009 ratings for:

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

The Governing Council of the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) has also awarded GRMC the prestigious Pathway to Excellence Designation. The award recognizes Guadalupe Regional's continued efforts to provide a positive work environment for nurses and demonstrates a commitment to excellence for patients and their families. The designation is an indication of the professional satisfaction of nurses at Guadalupe Regional and identifies the Medical Center as one of the best places for nurses to work.

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“These achievements reflect our ongoing efforts to hardwire excellence,” said GRMC’s CEO Robert Haynes, “and demonstrate our commitment to our patients. The contributions of our physicians and staff members and the quality healthcare they provide make these achievements possible and are evidence that we are performing at a high level. Every day presents new challenges for our team and new opportunities for us to excel.”

“Our staff are proud of these achievements,” added GRMC’s Chief Nursing Officer Kim Deese. Deese attributes the high ratings to a hospital culture that focuses on quality and has resulted in a variety of initiatives including GRMC’s Code of Excellence and setting specific patient care and service goals.

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™, GRMC 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. A gift to the Guadalupe Regional Medical Foundation helps fund the expansion and enhancement of patient services at GRMC. Every donation, large or small, makes a difference. For more information, please call 830-401-7721 or send your donation to Guadalupe Regional Medical Foundation, 1331 E. Court St., Seguin, TX 78155.

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