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For Immediate Release

GUADALUPE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES NATIONAL QUALITY AWARDS—Again!

Awards are Based on Study, Which Finds Patients Treated at 5-Star Hospitals are 80% Less Likely to Experience a Major Complication

Seguin, Texas (October 22, 2009) – Orthopedic care at Guadalupe Regional Medical Center (GRMC) has been ranked in the top 15% of the nation by a new study released recently by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization. The HealthGrades study evaluates objective patient outcomes in the nation's 5,000 hospitals. GRMC received the highest possible rating, five-star, awards for the quality of its joint replacement surgery program.

Highlights of Guadalupe Regional Medical Center's scores include:

- *Five-Star Rated for Joint Replacement - 2 years in a row (2009 & 2010)*
- *Five-Star Rated for Total Knee Replacement - 2 years in a row (2009 & 2010)*
- *Five-Star Rated for Hip Fracture Repair - 3 years in a row (2008 – 2010)*

"We're proud to receive this prestigious award," said GRMC's CEO Robert Haynes, "reflecting our strong commitment to quality and the daily contributions of all hospital physicians and staff members in making this designation possible."

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 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 compared to the U.S. hospital average.

- If all hospitals performed 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.

“We recognize everyone on the team for these outstanding results,” added GRMC’s Chief Nursing Officer 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.”

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.

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.

About GRMC

Guadalupe Regional Medical Center (GRMC) is a 125-licensed bed acute care facility, committed to providing excellent healthcare services for the communities it serves. In January 2008, GRMC began a three-year \$102 million expansion project that will more than double the size of the Medical Center and enhance many patient services. Having earned the Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval™, GRMC is fully accredited. The Medical Center’s active medical staff of more than 60 physicians, practicing in 30 specialties, and 700 employees serve the residents of Guadalupe and seven other counties. Jointly owned by the City of Seguin and Guadalupe County, GRMC is a not-for-profit community hospital offering comprehensive patient services. By providing state-of-the-art facilities, advanced technology, and expert clinical support, GRMC partners with physicians to provide superior healthcare. Last year, the hospital admitted 5,200 patients, handled 26,800 Emergency Department visits, 700 births, and performed more than 3,000 surgeries. GRMC contributes more than \$30 million per year to the local economy in salaries and benefits, more than \$7 million in services for those unable to pay for healthcare, and \$4.5 million in community benefits.

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