



NEWS RELEASE

St. Luke's Hospital

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HealthGrades

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL NAMED ONE OF AMERICA'S 50 BEST HOSPITALS FOR FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW

St. Luke's is the only Missouri hospital to achieve this designation since 2007.

CHESTERFIELD, MO, February 24, 2010 – For the fourth year in a row, St. Luke's Hospital is the only Missouri hospital to be named on the HealthGrades list of America's 50 Best Hospitals.

The designation is based solely on clinical outcomes at each of the nation's nearly 5,000 non-government hospitals. Hospitals cannot opt in or out of this independent analysis.

"St. Luke's is committed to improving the quality of life for patients and the community," said Gary Olson, St. Luke's Hospital president and chief executive officer. "This achievement is a testament to the ongoing, focused effort of our entire healthcare team to provide each patient the best care possible."

"It's no surprise to me that St. Luke's has been named one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for the fourth year in a row," said Bruce Blunt, St. Luke's Hospital patient with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). "I feel that I am alive today because of the great services I've received from St. Luke's. Everyone on the pulmonary services team I've met since 2001 has been caring and knowledgeable at every step."

HealthGrades is an independent healthcare ratings organization, and it studied millions of Medicare hospitalization records from 1999 through 2008 across 26 procedures and conditions, from hip replacement to bypass surgery, to determine St. Luke's ranks in the top one percent of all hospitals in the nation for quality outcomes. According to HealthGrades, patients admitted to an America's 50 Best Hospital are more likely to have successful treatment without major complications.

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“The HealthGrades America’s 50 Best Hospitals have demonstrated clinical outcomes that are the best in the nation, and they have sustained that level of quality year in and year out,” said Rick May, MD, a HealthGrades vice president and one of the study’s authors. “That indicates that these hospitals have leadership, operational structures and clinical teams that are capable of producing excellence in a way that others cannot. These hospitals should be congratulated, and those in their community should feel proud of the quality of care being delivered.”

In a separate report issued last fall, St. Luke’s Hospital received recognition from HealthGrades in the following clinical specialty areas:

- Pulmonary Care Excellence Award for the sixth year in a row
- Gastrointestinal Care Excellence Award for the third year in a row
- Critical Care Excellence Award

About St. Luke’s Hospital:

St. Luke’s Hospital, located in Chesterfield, Missouri, is a regional healthcare provider committed to improving the quality of life for patients and the community. The 493-bed, not-for-profit hospital offers more than 60 specialty areas including cardiovascular care and surgery, cancer care, neurosurgery and neurology, orthopedics, maternity and other women's health, general medicine, outpatient services, pediatrics and comprehensive surgical services.

St. Luke’s Hospital is part of the Spirit of Women® Hospital Network, a coalition of hospitals and healthcare providers across the United States that ascribes to the highest standards of excellence in women’s health, education and community outreach. St. Luke’s is also the only Missouri hospital to receive the HealthGrades 2009/2010 Women’s Health Excellence Award for providing quality healthcare to women. For more information about St. Luke’s Hospital, please visit www.stlukes-stl.com/newsroom.

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