



NEWS RELEASE

St. Luke's Hospital

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For Immediate Release

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL RECOGNIZED FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH EXCELLENCE

St. Luke's is the only Missouri hospital to achieve this HealthGrades® quality designation.

CHESTERFIELD, MO, June 30, 2009 – St. Luke's Hospital rates among the **top 5%** of all hospitals nationwide for providing quality healthcare to women, according to HealthGrades, a leading independent healthcare ratings organization.

St. Luke's Hospital is **the only** Missouri hospital to receive the 2009/2010 Women's Health Excellence Award™. The award is based on a study of patient outcomes across 16 common procedures and conditions such as heart care, vascular surgery, stroke care, respiratory services, orthopedic surgery and spine surgery.

Earlier this year, HealthGrades identified St. Luke's as one of America's 50 Best Hospitals for the third year in a row for overall clinical excellence.

“Providing quality healthcare is at the core of everything we do,” said Jan Hess, St. Luke's Hospital vice president. “It is an honor to be recognized as the only hospital in Missouri to achieve excellence in women's health, and it is a reflection our commitment to providing personalized care to each and every patient.”

To determine the recipients of the award, HealthGrades analyzed more than 2.6 million hospitalizations using Medicare data from all 50 states from 2005 through 2007. The study can be found at www.healthgrades.com.

“As our population ages, more women are affected and hospitalized by chronic diseases like congestive heart failure, and variations in quality do exist between men and women,” said Dr. Rick May, senior physician consultant and a study co-author. “The hospitals that have been identified as Women's Health Excellence Award recipients are clearly performing at a superior level of quality. Women have a choice in healthcare and should do their homework prior to choosing a hospital.”

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St. Luke's Hospital is also the exclusive Spirit of Women® Hospital in the region. Spirit of Women is an elite coalition of hospitals across the United States that ascribes to the highest standards of excellence in women's health, education and community outreach. Spirit of Women hospitals are committed to making good health easier and to help women and their families take action that results in better health.

About St. Luke's Hospital:

St. Luke's Hospital, located in Chesterfield, Missouri, is a premier, regional healthcare provider specializing in individualized care. 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. For more information about St. Luke's Hospital, please visit www.stlukes-stl.com/newsroom.

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