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### **HealthGrades Names Palmetto General Hospital # 1 in Florida for Cardiac Surgery**

**HIALEAH, Fla. (Oct. 18, 2011)** – A report released today by HealthGrades, the nation’s most trusted, independent source of physician information and hospital quality outcomes, named Palmetto General Hospital # 1 in Florida for cardiac surgery, and among America’s 100 best hospitals for the specialty.

“Being recognized by HealthGrades as the number one hospital in Florida for cardiac surgery is a major accomplishment,” said Ana Mederos, chief executive officer. “Patients have a lot of choices when it comes to where they will go to receive their cardiac care and we have worked hard to earn top quality measures so that our patients trust in the high quality care they will receive at *The Heart Institute* at Palmetto General Hospital.”

“Patients today have a wide array options when it comes to choosing a health care provider,” said Kerry Hicks, HealthGrades chief executive officer. “At HealthGrades, we are proud to have led the way for empowering patient choice based on objective clinical outcomes and access to actionable quality measures. We commend Palmetto General Hospital for its superior quality and support of consumerism and transparency in the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area.”

In addition to the top national and state rankings, Palmetto General Hospital also achieved HealthGrades top rating – 5-stars – for its quality in the following areas:

- Coronary Bypass Surgery
- Heart Valve Surgery
- Treatment of Stroke

Key findings of the *HealthGrades October 2011 Healthcare Consumerism and Hospital Quality in America* report include:

- Patients had, on average a 73% lower risk of dying in a 5-star rated hospital compared to a 1-star rated hospital, and a 54% lower risk of dying in a 5-star rated hospital compared to the national average.
- In an online survey, 80% said they are very or somewhat concerned about the quality of hospital care in their community.

- The Miami-Ft. Lauderdale market rated 3-stars overall for cardiac surgery quality, while Palmetto General Hospital is 5-star-rated in cardiac surgery.

**About Palmetto General Hospital:**

Palmetto General Hospital, part of Tenet's Miami-Dade/Broward Health Network, is a 360-bed acute-care hospital located at 2001 West 68th Street in Hialeah, Florida. The hospital has served the medical and health care needs of Northwest Miami-Dade and Southwest Broward counties for 40 years.

Palmetto General Hospital offers a broad range of services, including adult and pediatric emergency rooms, maternity, mental health, cancer center, hyperbaric, wound care, and sleep disorders center, a cardiac program that includes both medical and surgical services, a bariatric program that has been designated a Center of Excellence by the American Society for Bariatric Surgery and a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence as designated by the American College of Radiology. Palmetto General Hospital is fully accredited by The Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency.

For its Bariatric Surgery Program, Palmetto General Hospital is the Best-Rated Hospital in Miami-Dade County and has also ranked second in Florida for 2010/2011 and among the Top 5% in the Nation for Bariatric Surgery for three consecutive years in a row by HealthGrades, the nation's leading health care quality ratings company. In addition, Palmetto General Hospital has received a 5-star rating for valve replacement surgery and stroke care for 2011 by HealthGrades.

In addition, the hospital received the 2010 American Heart Association Get With the Guidelines (GWTG) Gold Performance Achievement Award, and in 2009, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association choose the "America's Best Hospitals" issue (July 2009) in the US News and World Report to recognize the Palmetto General Hospital for Achievements in Get With The Guidelines Programs. Palmetto General Hospital is also one of only 34 hospitals nationwide to earn Solucient's 100 Top Hospitals designation six or more times.

**About HealthGrades**

HealthGrades is America's most trusted, independent source of physician information and hospital quality outcomes. HealthGrades online properties are the nation's leading destination for physician search and empower more than 170 million consumers annually to make informed health care decisions.

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