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## **Palmetto General Hospital Celebrates HealthGrades Designation as # 1 Hospital in Florida for Cardiac Surgery**

*City dignitaries, community leaders, HealthGrades representative and hospital staff gather to recognize the hospital's achievements in cardiac care*

**HIALEAH, Fla. (Dec. 14, 2011)** – Today, Palmetto General Hospital celebrates a remarkable accomplishment in cardiac care. The hospital was designated as the number one hospital in Florida for cardiac surgery and among the nation's 100 best hospitals for the specialty by HealthGrades, one of the nation's most trusted, independent sources of physician information and hospital quality outcomes. The event gathered city officials, community leaders, physicians, hospital staff, previous patients and Health Grades representatives to honor the hospital's hard work and achievement.

“We are honored to have Palmetto General Hospital's many supporters at today's event, and 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.”

In addition to the top national and state rankings, Palmetto General Hospital also achieved HealthGrades top rating – 5-stars – for its quality in Coronary Bypass Surgery, Heart Valve Surgery, and Treatment of Stroke categories.

The Miami-Ft. Lauderdale market rated 3-stars overall for cardiac surgery quality, while Palmetto General Hospital is 5-star-rated in cardiac surgery. This rating is a reflection of the committed team of physicians, nurses, and staff at the Palmetto General Hospital Heart Institute,

Prominent Miami-Dade County city officials and dignitaries were also present at the event. An award was presented to Palmetto General Hospital by State Senator Rene Garcia, and Proclamations were presented by Mayor Carlos Hernandez, City of Hialeah; Mayor Yioiset De La Cruz, City of Hialeah Gardens; Mayor Juan Carlos Bermudez, City of Doral and representatives from the Town of Miami Lakes.

**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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