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**PALMETTO GENERAL HOSPITAL APPOINTS JULIE GARCIA AS NEW QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT OFFICER**

**MIAMI –October 2011** – Palmetto General Hospital is proud to announce the appointment of Julie Garcia, R.N., M.S.N., as the hospital’s new quality management officer. In this role, Garcia will be responsible for the overall operations of clinical quality, medical staff peer review, performance improvement, risk management, patient relations and safety. She will also ensure adherence to all regulatory agencies standards and reporting requirements and maintain compliance with nationally reported quality data and patient safety goals.

“We are excited to announce the promotion of Julie Garcia to quality management officer, as she has been a dedicated leader at Palmetto General Hospital for over four years, said Ana Mederos, chief executive officer, Palmetto General Hospital. “Julie has consistently expanded her leadership role at Palmetto General Hospital, demonstrating her ability to effectively provide direction in the development and measurement of the hospital’s quality performance evaluation, reporting and improvement.”

Prior to her promotion, Garcia held the position of director of clinical quality improvement at Palmetto General Hospital since 2007. Before that, Garcia was the director of clinical quality improvement at Hialeah Hospital.

Garcia earned her Bachelor of Science in nursing and Master of Science in nursing with an administration and finance specialization from Florida Atlantic University.

**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 and is fully accredited by The Joint Commission, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency.

Palmetto General Hospital offers a broad range of services, including adult and pediatric emergency rooms; maternity; mental health; cancer care; diagnostic imaging; hyperbaric treatment; wound care; a sleep disorders center; a medical and surgical cardiac program; robotics program and a bariatric program that is a designated a Center of Excellence by the American Society for Bariatric Surgery (2006-2010) and a Bariatric Center of Excellence by the American College of Surgeons (2008-2011).

For the last four consecutive years (2007-2011), Palmetto General Hospital’s bariatric program earned the Bariatric Surgery Excellence Award™ from HealthGrades, the nation’s leading health care quality ratings company. The

hospital was also ranked among the top 5 percent in the nation for bariatric surgery and maintained a 5-star rating for overall bariatric surgery by HealthGrades.

In addition, the hospital offers award-winning heart and stroke care. In 2011, HealthGrades ranked Palmetto General Hospital among the top 10 percent of hospitals in Florida for cardiac surgery, and awarded the hospital with a 5-star rating for both heart valve-replacement surgery (2011) and stroke care (2003-2011). Palmetto General Hospital also received the 2010 American Heart Association Get With the Guidelines Gold Performance Achievement Award.

For more information about Palmetto General Hospital, please call 305-823-5000 or visit [www.palmettogeneral.com](http://www.palmettogeneral.com).

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