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HealthGrades Names Delray Medical Center Best in the County and Among Best in Nation for Orthopedic Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Stroke and Critical Care

- Patients Increasingly Seek Information on Quality of Healthcare Providers Online with More Than 335,000 Residents Who Searched Annually -

Delray Beach, FL (Oct. 18, 2011) – A report released today by HealthGrades, the nation’s most trusted, independent source of physician information and hospital quality outcomes, named Delray Medical Center the best rated hospital in Palm Beach County for orthopedic surgery, vascular surgery, stroke care and critical care. Additionally, Delray Medical Center is recognized nationally as one of America’s 100 Best Hospitals for stroke care, critical care, and orthopedic surgery.

According to the report, patients in the West Palm Beach market area are increasingly seeking such quality information online, with 335,069 patients, or 18% of area residents, visiting HealthGrades.com in the past year. And for good reason: Choosing a hospital can be a life or death decision. A quality comparison of doctors and hospitals in the West Palm Beach market area can be found online at: www.topcities.healthgrades.com/ratings/westpalmbeach-fl.

“Being recognized by HealthGrades as the best rated hospital in Palm Beach County for orthopedic surgery, vascular surgery, stroke and critical care is a major accomplishment,” said Mark Bryan, chief executive officer. “Patients have a lot of choices when it comes to where they will go to receive their healthcare and we have worked hard to earn the designation as one of the nation’s top 100 hospitals so that our patients trust in the high quality care that Delray Medical Center will provide.”

“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 Delray Medical Center for its superior quality and support of consumerism and transparency in the Palm Beach County area.”

HealthGrades report found that patients treated at 5-star rated hospitals experience a 73% lower risk of mortality and a 63% lower risk of complications. Delray Medical Center received HealthGrades highest rating – 5-stars – in the following areas:

- Coronary bypass surgery
- Coronary interventional procedures
- Peripheral vascular bypass surgery
- Treatment of heart attack
- Treatment of heart failure
- Total knee replacement surgery

- Total hip replacement surgery
- Hip fracture treatment
- Neurosciences
- Stroke care
- Treatment of pneumonia
- Treatment of respiratory failure
- Treatment of sepsis
- Treatment of pulmonary embolism
- Treatment of bowel obstruction
- Treatment of pancreatitis
- GI surgeries and procedures

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

- If all Medicare patients from 2008 through 2010 had been treated at 5-star hospitals, 240,040 lives could have potentially been saved.
- In an online survey, 80% said they are very or somewhat concerned about the quality of hospital care in their community.
- In an online survey, 42% of HealthGrades visitors said that they believe their chances of experiencing an unexpected death or complication is higher in some hospitals in their community compared to others.

About Delray Medical Center

For more than 25 years, Delray Medical Center, a 493-bed acute care hospital, has served the communities of South Palm Beach County. As both a community hospital and Level II trauma center located on a 42-acre medical plaza, Delray Medical Center has the ability to offer several specialized services including Cardiac Care, Orthopedics, Rehabilitation, Neurosciences, Emergency Care and more. For the past four years, Delray Medical Center has been named one of America's 50 Best Hospitals (HealthGrades), as well as a Primary Stroke Center (Joint Commission), a Blue Distinction Center for Spine Surgery and for Knee and Hip Replacement (Blue Cross and Blue Shield) and has also received the Get With The Guidelines award for coronary artery disease, stroke and heart failure (American Heart Association.) Delray Medical Center is one of only 269 hospitals ranked in the top 5% in the nation for patient outcomes according to a new study by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization, achieving the HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence Award™. The hospital is one of just 13 hospitals in South Florida, and just one of five in Palm Beach County that received the recognition for its clinical performance. The hospital is actively involved in community outreach, sponsoring several events, community lectures and fundraisers. Delray Medical Center is also a smoke free campus.

For more information or physician referral, please call 1-800-897-9789 or visit the website at www.delraymedicalctr.com

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