

For Immediate Release:
August 10, 2009

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SSM DePaul earns Top Performer Award In Medicare Pay-For-Performance Project

Bridgeton, MO – SSM DePaul Health Center has been named a top performer in a Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Premier healthcare alliance value-based purchasing project that rewards hospitals for delivering high quality care in five clinical areas.

Based on fourth-year results from the Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration (HQID) project, SSM DePaul received a Top Performer Award in the area of Hip and Knee Replacement and 5 Attainment awards for Hip and Knee, Pneumonia, Heart Failure, CABG and AMI. Due to its successes, SSM DePaul will receive a bonus payment of **\$77,374** from CMS, which awarded incentive payments of approximately \$12 million to 112 hospitals.

“Providing exceptional patient care has always been our mission,” said Pat Komoroski, DePaul president. “Our successes in this project are a testament to our ongoing efforts to continually improve the quality of care we offer our patients.”

“The successes of the hospitals – small and large, urban and rural, teaching and non-teaching – in the HQID project have led to its consideration as the basis for key national health reforms,” said Susan DeVore, Premier president and CEO. “As the proposal of a national value-based purchasing program becomes a reality, hospitals participating in HQID will have six years experience with such a model.”

About the HQID project

The HQID is the first national project of its kind, designed to determine if economic incentives to hospitals are effective at improving the quality of inpatient care. Through the project, which has been extended by CMS for an additional three years, Premier collects a set of more than 30 evidence-based clinical quality measures from almost 250 hospitals across the country. The quality measures were developed by government and private organizations (for more information on the indicators, visit: www.qualitydemo.com).

HQID tracks process and outcome measures in five clinical areas – acute myocardial infarction (AMI), heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), pneumonia, and hip and knee replacement.

Improvements in quality of care saved an estimated 2,500 acute myocardial infarction (AMI/heart attack) patients across the first three years of the project, according to an analysis of mortality rates at hospitals participating in the project. In addition, patients received approximately 300,000

additional recommended evidence-based clinical quality measures, such as smoking cessation, discharge instructions and pneumococcal vaccination, during that same timeframe.

For hospitals participating in the HQID project, the average Composite Quality Score (CQS), an aggregate of all quality measures within each clinical area, improved by 4.4 percent between the project's second and third year for total gains of 15.8 percent over the project's first three years.

About SSM DePaul Health Center

Recipient of the 2009 Premier Award for Quality, SSM DePaul Health Center is a 457-bed acute care hospital offering all private patient rooms and specializing in minimally-invasive techniques for heart, spine, knee and weight loss surgery. SSM DePaul also operates the only Level II Trauma Center in North St. Louis County and is one of only two hospitals in the region to offer 24/7 comprehensive interventional stroke care. Sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary and opened in 1828, SSM DePaul was the first hospital west of the Mississippi River and remains the oldest continuously existing business in St. Louis.