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Hospital Performance Gains National Recognition

Sacred Heart named top performer nationwide in groundbreaking Medicare project

Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital has been named the top performer nationwide in a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Premier Healthcare Alliance pay-for-performance project that rewards hospitals for delivering higher quality care in five clinical areas.

Based on third-year results from the Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration (HQID) project, Sacred Heart ranked in the top 10 percent in the country for overall quality in the clinical areas of acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), congestive heart failure and total joint replacement; and in the top 20 percent for coronary artery bypass grafting surgery.

Due to its successes, Sacred Heart will receive the top bonus payment of \$385,342 from CMS this year. CMS awarded incentive payments of more than \$7 million to 112 hospitals in 2008, with more than \$24.5 million awarded over the first three years of the project.

"The CMS project is becoming the best measure of performance in the health care industry because it provides a consistent definition of key measurements of quality and audits hospitals' reported data for accuracy," explains Jeff Collins, MD, chief medical officer at Sacred Heart.

"Sacred Heart is truly setting the pace for the highest quality, safest patient care, and we're proud of our outstanding staff and physicians who focus on continuous improvement," says Mike Wilson, president of Sacred Heart. "It is reflective of our commitment to providing top-quality care for every patient, every time—both as it relates to patient satisfaction and from the standpoint of its impact on health care costs."

In 2007, as a result of these top-quality results, Sacred Heart received a bonus payment of more than \$256,000—the fifth highest amount awarded to any hospital.

"Hospitals participating in the HQID project make quality a top priority from the hospital board on down," said Stephanie Alexander, Premier senior vice president. "These top-performing hospitals – small and large, urban and rural, teaching and non-teaching – have demonstrated a continuous and sustained improvement, and we commend them for their dedication to provide the highest-quality patient care."

About the Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration 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 over 250

hospitals across the country. For more information on the indicators, visit: www.qualitydemo.com.

HQID tracks process and outcome measures in five clinical areas – acute myocardial infarction, 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 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, 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 Premier Inc., 2006 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient

Serving more than 2,000 U.S. hospitals and 50,000 other health care sites, the Premier health care alliance and its members are dedicated to improving patient outcomes while safely reducing the cost of care. Owned by not-for-profit hospitals, Premier operates one of the leading health care purchasing networks and the nation's most comprehensive repository of hospital, clinical and financial information. For more information, visit www.premierinc.com.

About Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital

Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital is the largest hospital in the Providence Health & Services system and the second largest in Washington State. In addition to a 161-bed Children's Hospital—with more than 90 pediatric sub-specialists and a 47-bed Level III NICU—the Medical Center features comprehensive cardiac programs, a robotic center for minimally invasive surgery, a certified Stroke Center, a Level II Trauma Center, a heart and kidney transplant program, a world-class research department, inpatient psychiatric care, residency programs and more. Its service area extends to about 1.5 million people, and it is Spokane's largest private employer. (www.shmc.org)