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Kettering Medical Center Women's Care Again Ranks Among Top 5 Percent in Nation

Independent Analysis by the Leading Healthcare Ratings Organization of 5,000 Hospitals

KETTERING, OH (April 21, 2010) – An independent study of women's care at nearly 5,000 hospitals found Kettering Medical Center to be in the top 5% in the nation, the hospital announced today. Released by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization, the *HealthGrades Seventh Annual Women's Health in American Hospitals* study analyzed nearly 7 million hospitalization records to identify top-performing hospitals. It is the second consecutive year that Kettering has achieved this distinction.

“We have been working hard to grow and improve our services here at Kettering Medical Center, and we have accomplished these things through an outstanding team of caregivers and support personnel,” said Miriam Cartmell, Administrative Director of Women and Children's Services for KMC. “It is very gratifying that HealthGrades' study has recognized the work of this team two years running.”

Kettering Medical Center is one of only 166 hospitals in the nation with patient outcomes for women that are in the top 5%, according to the study. As a result, Kettering Medical Center received the 2010/2011 HealthGrades Women's Health Excellence Award.

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As a group, hospitals receiving this award had women's risk-adjusted mortality rates that were 41% lower than the poorest performing hospitals in the study and complication rates that were 19% lower than the poorest performers. While all hospitals, on average, continued to improve their mortality rates among women, those receiving the award improved at a faster rate than all others over the three years studied, 15% compared with 12%.

As part of the study, Kettering Medical Center and virtually every other hospital in the country were evaluated for the following procedures and treatments among women aged 65 and over:

- Women's Medicine (heart attack, congestive heart failure, pneumonia, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and stroke)
- Women's Cardiovascular Procedures (coronary bypass surgery, peripheral vascular bypass, coronary interventional procedures, resection/replacement of abdominal aorta, carotid surgery, and valve replacement); and
- Women's Bone & Joint Health (total knee and total hip replacement surgeries, spinal surgeries, and hip fracture repair).

“There is clearly a wide disparity in the quality of care for women among top-performing hospitals and all others,” said Rick May, MD, a vice president with HealthGrades and one of the study's authors. “The goal of this analysis is to not only put sound data in the hands of prospective patients, but also to identify top-performing hospitals who are setting national benchmarks for the treatment of women to which other hospitals can aspire.”

The HealthGrades study found that 16,863 women could have potentially survived their hospitalization and 4,735 women could have potentially avoided a major in-hospital complication if all hospitals performed at the benchmarks set by Kettering Medical Center and the other award recipients.

The annual HealthGrades study analyzed nearly 7 million hospitalizations using Medicare data from all 50 states from 2006 through 2008. Eligible hospitals must have met volume requirements in stroke and either coronary bypass or valve replacements; met the volume requirements in at least six additional cohorts of the 16 evaluated; and have transferred out less than 10% of stroke patients.

The complete study and full methodology are available for download at <http://www.healthgrades.com>.

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