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NATIONAL STUDY: EL PASO SPECIALTY HOSPITAL IS FIVE-STAR RECIPIENT FOR ORTHOPAEDIC CARE

Healthgrades Study of Patient Outcomes in Approximately 4,500 Hospitals Finds El Paso Specialty Hospital Among the Best

El Paso, TX (July 24, 2013) – On Tuesday, July 30, 2013 at 6:30 pm, El Paso Specialty Hospital will receive a Five-Star rating for Total Knee Replacement and a Five-Star rating for Total Joint Replacement from Healthgrades, the leading provider of information to help consumers make an informed decision about a physician or hospital. The announcement will take place at El Paso Specialty Hospital, 1755 Curie Dr., Suite A, in the hospital auditorium.

El Paso Specialty Hospital is the only hospital in El Paso* who is a five-star recipient for Joint Replacement and Total Knee Replacement for 6 years in a row (2008-2013). The findings are part of ***American Hospital Quality Outcomes 2013: Healthgrades Report to the Nation***, which evaluates the performance of approximately 4,500 hospitals nationwide across nearly 30 of the most common conditions and procedures. Healthgrades bases its objective measures solely on clinical performance.

Healthgrades will also release new research conducted by Harris Interactive that underscores the importance of educating consumers on clinical outcomes. According to the research, 88% of adults agree they have the necessary information to make an informed decision about either a physician or hospital. But most Americans are not aware that there is data available on the chance of dying at a hospital (55%) or complication rates (58%).

Other notable Healthgrades recognitions include:

Orthopaedic:

- Five-Star Recipient for Joint Replacement for 6 Years in a Row (2008-2013)
- Five-Star Recipient for Total Knee Replacement for 6 Years in a Row (2008-2013)

"El Paso Specialty Hospital was formed over a decade ago by surgeons with the goal of providing world class orthopaedic surgery. As the only hospital in the El Paso Region to achieve 5 Star recognition 6 years in a row, the founding surgeons' goal has been achieved. The

dedication of the surgeons, nurses, physical therapists and ancillary personnel to individualized patient care and patient satisfaction is second to none." James Wilcox, CEO

A wide variation in quality exists among American hospitals, according to the Healthgrades report. Patients were 61% less likely to experience a major in-hospital complication when being treated at a hospital receiving 5 stars when compared with hospitals receiving 1 star across a range of common procedures, such as total knee replacement, gall bladder and spine surgeries.

The Healthgrades study also found that from 2009 through 2011:

- A total of 183,534 in-hospital complications could have been avoided during hospital stays if all hospitals performed at a 5-star level.
- Patients were 42% less likely to experience an in-hospital complication in hospitals receiving 5 stars versus all other hospitals.

For its 2013 hospital quality outcomes analysis, Healthgrades evaluated approximately 40 million Medicare hospitalization records for services performed from 2009 through 2011 at approximately 4,500 short-term, acute care hospitals nationwide.

Healthgrades independently measures hospitals based on data that hospitals submit to the federal government. No hospital can opt in or out of the analysis, and no hospital pays to be measured. Mortality and complication rates are risk adjusted, which takes into account each hospital's unique population.

The ***American Hospital Quality Outcomes 2013: Healthgrades Report to the Nation***, including the complete methodology, can be found at www.healthgrades.com/quality.

About El Paso Specialty Hospital

El Paso Specialty Hospital is a 31 bed orthopaedic surgery facility owned by local physicians who believe that being focused in one specialty creates higher degrees of expertise and better levels of care. Specializing in orthopaedic, joint replacement, spine surgeries and pain management procedures, El Paso Specialty Hospital is designed to offer area surgeons the advantages of the newest and most sophisticated technologies and equipment, the latest in O.R. design and spacious surgery suites that are unequalled in the region.

*"Region is El Paso, TX as defined by the federal government's Office of Management and Budget".

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