



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SMH Receives Delmarva Award for Third Consecutive Year**

LEONARDTOWN, Md. – For the third consecutive year and the fourth year overall, St. Mary's Hospital has received the prestigious 2010 Delmarva Foundation Medicare Excellence Award for Quality Improvement.

This accomplishment comes from the hospital's outstanding quality improvement measures that ensure proper care for all patients. The hospital previously received the award in 2004 and in 2008 and 2009. St. Mary's is one of only eight Maryland hospitals, four of which are MedStar Health affiliates, to receive this year's award.

“Receiving this award three years in a row is an indicator that everyone at this hospital — physicians, clinical staff and all associates — has worked exceptionally hard to achieve this goal,” said St. Mary's Hospital President Christine Wray. “St. Mary's has a terrific team that works together across the board on behalf of patients to make us a quality hospital.”

The Delmarva Foundation for Medical Care (DFMC), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Maryland, recognizes individual hospital performance improvement in the four national inpatient clinical areas - acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, surgical care improvement and pneumonia.

To merit the award, hospitals must meet or exceed the following criteria and requirements: improve individual performance measure rate to 90 percent or above on 15 required measures and sustain the improvement for at least three consecutive quarters.

“This is clear evidence of our dedicated commitment to excellence,” said Vice President Joan Gelrud. “We believe that every patient deserves a safe, successful outcome here. Meeting such exacting criteria and achieving this award for three consecutive years sends a message to our patients that they can have confidence in us.”

DFMC is a nonprofit organization located in Maryland that has been monitoring and improving the quality of health care for citizens of Maryland since 1973. As the federally designated

Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for the state, DFMC is under contract to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to improve the quality of health care for Medicare beneficiaries.

The data used to achieve this award is publicly reported and available on many websites, such as Hospital Compare and the Maryland Health Care Commission's website, more commonly known as the "Maryland Hospital Report Card."

***About St. Mary's Hospital***

*St. Mary's Hospital is a 103-bed, full-service hospital, delivering state-of-the-art emergency, acute inpatient and outpatient care. With innovative technology and a dedication to excellence, the St. Mary's staff is committed to providing quality medical care with a compassionate touch. As an integral partner in providing a seamless continuum of care, St. Mary's Hospital takes pride in numerous programs and services.*

***About MedStar Health***

*MedStar Health is a \$3.8 billion non-profit healthcare organization and a community-based network of nine hospitals and other healthcare services across Maryland and in the Washington, D.C., region. The hospitals, which include both teaching and community facilities, are Franklin Square Hospital Center, Good Samaritan Hospital, Harbor Hospital, Montgomery General Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital and Union Memorial Hospital in Maryland, and Georgetown University Hospital, National Rehabilitation Hospital and Washington Hospital Center in the District of Columbia*

*MedStar Health is based in Columbia, Maryland, and as the region's largest healthcare system, it is also one of the largest employers with 26,000 employees and more than 5,300 affiliated physicians, all of whom support MedStar Health's patient-first philosophy that combines care, compassion and clinical excellence with an emphasis on customer service. We prove this every day with more than 166,000 inpatient admissions and more than 1.6 million outpatient visits each year.*

*MedStar Health's areas of clinical excellence include cardiology, cardiac surgery, oncology services, rehabilitation, neurosciences, orthopedic surgery, women's services, and emergency and trauma services. We have comprehensive services including primary, urgent and sub acute care, medical education and research. Our other health-related services include assisted living, home health and long-term care. We also operate nursing homes, senior housing, adult day care, rehabilitation and ambulatory centers, as well as maintain MedStar Physician Partners, a comprehensive physician network in Maryland and the Washington, D.C., region.*

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