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Woodland Heights Medical Center Recognized for High Quality of Care

Lufkin, Texas- May 31, 2007- Woodland Heights Medical Center has received the Texas Health Care Quality Improvement Award of Excellence from TMF Health Quality Institute, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Texas. TMF established the award program in partnership with Texas Hospital Association, Texas Medical Association, Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals and Texas Osteopathic Medical Association.

The Texas Health Care Quality Improvement Award honors Texas hospitals that are performing quality initiatives aimed at improving outcomes in patient care by recognizing those hospitals that have improved their initial baseline performance on specific national quality measures.

The award acknowledges hospitals for improving care related to acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, and pneumonia. These clinical areas have been designated as national health care priorities by the Centers for Medicare and Medical Services (CMS) and the Joint Commission, the nation's predominant independent, non-profit standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. The award recognizes hospitals that are active in quality improvement and have made the required improvement on a composite scoring system, called the appropriate myocardial care measure (ACM). The ACM consists of ten measures: five acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), two heart failure, and three pneumonia measures.

These CMS/Joint Commission priority areas were targeted because they measure care for common, serious health conditions that affect all adult patients. The quality measures-such as an initial antibiotic dose within four hours of admission for patients with pneumonia- are designed to ensure hospitals provide care consistent with current medical guidelines.

“To achieve this recognition, we initiated a quality improvement program with an interdisciplinary team, collected and submitted data over five quality measures that make up the appropriate care measure,” said David LeMonte, COO. “It was a significant amount of work, but well worth it because it was the right thing to do for our patients.”

Out of more than 390 eligible Texas hospitals, 63 have met the criteria and have been presented with the Texas Health Care Quality Improvement Award of Excellence and 25 were presented

with the Quality Improvement Achievement Award. Hospitals receiving these awards will be recognized at a special ceremony in Austin on June 28th.

”With this significant achievement, it is clear that these hospitals are focused on providing the highest quality care to their patients. They recognized quality improvement is not about data, but about people,” said Tom Manley, CEO of TMF Health Quality Institute. “These hospitals demonstrate they are dedicated to ensuring all patients receive the right care at the right time, every time.”

“Working with the medical staff, Woodland Heights used nationally recognized standards to assure that consistent medical care for all patients is delivered routinely. We’re focused on following these national standards because they improve outcomes for our patients,” said Tara Watson, Director of Marketing. “We’re proud to have qualified to receive this distinguished award, and we will continue to enhance our quality improvement efforts through our collaboration with TMF Health Quality Institute.”

To earn the Award of Excellence, a hospital had to achieve or maintain performance between 90 and 100 percent on the appropriate care measure.

For more information on the award program, see the TMF Health Quality Institute Awards Web site at <http://award.tmfhqj.net>.

About Woodland Heights Medical Center

Established in 1918, Woodland Heights Medical Center was Lufkin’s first hospital. Now, almost nine decades later, Woodland Heights is recognized throughout Deep East Texas as the leading provider of high quality, innovative health care services. In 2006, Woodland Heights Medical Center was named a Distinguished Hospital for clinical excellence—ranking in the nation’s top 5% for quality care. * This year Woodland Heights received the highest possible ratings for treatment of heart failure and was rated best in Northeast Texas for overall cardiac service. * Recognized for its continued excellence in cardiac care, Woodland Heights is a five star rated hospital for the treatment of heart failure, cardiac interventions, treatment of heart attack and for cardiology services. * Additionally, Woodland Heights is ranked number four in Texas for overall cardiac services and cardiology services.* Accommodating a wide range of clinical specialties, Woodland Heights has achieved excellence in other key medical and surgical areas including neurology, orthopedic surgery, physical medicine/rehabilitation, vascular surgery and obstetrics and gynecology. Woodland Heights also offers a full range of outpatient diagnostic services including advanced imaging, laboratory, outpatient surgery and emergency services. Through its Rehabilitation Center, Woodland Heights offers cardiac rehabilitation, stroke recovery and physical and occupational rehabilitation. Combining modern facilities, leading technology, an exceptional staff and a commitment to the communities it serves, Woodland Heights Medical Center remains at the forefront of quality health care in Deep East Texas.

* *Healthgrades*

About TMF

TMF Health Quality Institute, formerly Texas Medical Foundation, is an Austin-based nonprofit consulting company focused on promoting quality health and health care through contracts with federal, state and local governments, as well as private organizations. TMF partners with health

care providers in a variety of settings to ensure that every person receives the appropriate care, every time. www.tmf.org