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**Hospital Compare Data Released:
*Woodland Heights Leads Way in Hospital Quality***

Lufkin, TX, July 17, 2009 – Woodland Heights Medical Center is proud to be ranked highest in quality for treating patients with certain medical conditions or surgical procedures, according to the most recent comparative Core Measures data released Wednesday, June 8, 2009 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on their web site (www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov). According to this national comparative web site, Woodland Heights surpasses other Lufkin hospitals as well as state and national averages for the treatment of heart attacks, pneumonia and surgical procedures in all core measurements.

The Hospital Compare website also provides information regarding the patient's perspective of care. HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) is the nation's only standardized survey that asks recently discharged patients to rate their hospital experience. The survey asks a variety of questions about doctor-patient communications, the facility's cleanliness and patient comfort. In the latest report, Woodland Heights Medical Center exceeded other Lufkin hospitals in all but one measurement.

"We are very proud of our outstanding HCAHPS scores, which are a testament to the caring and compassionate staff at Woodland Heights," said Cathy Busbee, Chief Nursing Officer of Woodland Heights Medical Center. "

The Hospital Compare data is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service's (CMS) Hospital Quality Initiative, which is intended to make important information about hospital performance accessible to the public. This national survey represents CMS's attempt to collect and share standardized quality measures to assist the public with choosing the best place to receive care.

"Woodland Heights values transparency and consumer knowledge about the quality of care provided at our hospital." said Bill Weldon, Chief Executive Officer of Woodland Heights Medical Center. "Hospital Compare is a positive step forward in bringing more information to the public so consumers can make informed health decisions."

On the Hospital Compare website, you will find information on how well hospitals care for patients with certain medical conditions or surgical procedures, and the results from a survey of patients about the quality of care they received during a recent hospital stay. The survey measures the proportion of cases where a hospital gave the recommended treatment, such as administering an antibiotic within one hour before surgery to help prevent infections. Experts agree that these quality measures give a good snapshot of the quality of care that hospitals give.

“Woodland Heights is proud of all our recent scores and we continue to take every opportunity to further excel,” continued Weldon. “We recognize this survey is one important and valuable measure of our overall quality efforts. We are always engaged in continuous quality improvement initiatives and are committed to delivering quality care and exceeding our patients’ expectations about their hospital experience.”

For more information on how area hospitals compare, visit the Hospital Compare website at www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov. If you would like additional information about Woodland Heights Medical Center, visit them online at www.woodlandheights.net.

About Woodland Heights Medical Center

Established in 1918, Woodland Heights Medical Center was Lufkin’s first hospital. Now, nine decades later, Woodland Heights is recognized throughout East Texas as the leading provider of high quality, innovative health care services. Accommodating a wide range of clinical specialties, Woodland Heights has achieved excellence in key medical and surgical areas including cardiology, pulmonology, 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 East Texas.

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