



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 12, 2004

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**Independent National Study Ranks Woodland Heights Medical Center
Among the Nation's Best for Cardiac Services**

Woodland Heights Medical Center, Lufkin, has been ranked among the top five percent of all hospitals in the U.S. for cardiology services, and among the top ten percent nationally for overall cardiac services and angioplasty/stent procedures, according to a new study released today by HealthGrades, the nation's leading healthcare quality company.

In the HealthGrades study, Woodland Heights received five-star ratings (highest possible) for cardiology services, cardiac interventional procedures, and treatment of heart attack and heart failure. The hospital is also ranked #2 in the State of Texas for cardiology and cardiac interventions, and #3 in the state for overall cardiac services.

"We're very pleased and proud to be recognized with these outstanding HealthGrades quality ratings, which validate our commitment to clinical excellence," said Lance Jones, Woodland Heights CEO. "Top ratings from an independent, objective national source demonstrate the quality care that our physicians, nurses and staff deliver to the patients and families in our community every day."

As part of its seventh annual *Hospital Quality in America Study*, HealthGrades independently analyzed nearly 5,000 hospitals in all 50 states and the District of Columbia for its 2005 ratings, objectively assessing their clinical outcomes and quality. The HealthGrades ratings measure whether patient outcomes for each of more than two dozen procedures and diagnoses are better than expected (5-Star), as expected (3-Star) or worse than expected (1-Star).

"HealthGrades objectively assesses and rates hospital performance in order to help consumers make better and more informed healthcare choices," explained Sarah Loughran, HealthGrades executive vice president. "With consumers having a greater stake in their healthcare purchasing decisions, it's important for them to know that there is a tremendous difference in clinical quality outcomes between hospitals."

“In eastern Texas, Woodland Heights Medical Center stands out notably in terms of delivering quality care for its cardiac patients,” Loughran added. “Patients, families and employers here truly have access to healthcare that is among the best in the nation.”

The 2005 HealthGrades ratings for all hospitals nationwide are available, free of charge, on the web at www.healthgrades.com. More than one million unique users and 125 major employers visit the HealthGrades web site every month to access quality information about hospitals, nursing homes and physicians. HealthGrades also provides consumers and payers with detailed assessments of hospitals’ patient safety outcomes, based on indicators developed by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

About HealthGrades

Health Grades, Inc. (OTCBB: HGRD) is the leading independent healthcare quality company, providing ratings, information, and advisory services to healthcare providers, employers, health plans, and insurance companies. HealthGrades works with healthcare providers to help assess, improve and promote their quality. HealthGrades provides consumers access to information about the clinical quality and patient safety outcomes of healthcare providers and practitioners through its Web site and provides liability insurers, employers, and payers with critical information about healthcare quality and safety.

About Woodland Heights Medical Center

Woodland Heights Medical Center has an 86-year tradition of caring for the people of East Texas. Providing the highest quality of healthcare, advanced technology, and cost-effective treatment, Woodland Heights Medical Center is a leader in the healthcare industry. Over the past 15 years, Woodland Heights Medical Center has built one of the country’s top-rated cardiac programs. With the only five-star rated cardiac interventional program in East Texas, Woodland Heights Medical Center is among the top 10% of heart programs in the nation. In Texas, the hospital is ranked number six for overall cardiac services. Woodland Heights Medical Center is an affiliate of Triad Hospitals, Inc. (NYSE:TRI), a company that owns and manages 56 hospitals and 16 ambulatory surgery centers in small cities and selected larger urban markets. Woodland Heights’ web site is <http://www.woodlandheights.net>.