

For immediate release

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Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center Earns ‘Top Performer on Key Quality Measures’ Recognition from The Joint Commission

(YAKIMA, WASH. Sept. 14, 2011) – Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center today was named one of the nation’s top performers on key quality measures by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in America.

Yakima Regional was recognized by The Joint Commission based on data reported about evidence-based clinical procedures that are shown to improve care for certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care and children’s asthma.

Yakima Regional is one of only 405 U.S. hospitals and critical access hospitals earning the distinction of top performer on key quality measures for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance. Inclusion on the list is based on an aggregation of accountability measure data reported to The Joint Commission during the previous calendar year. For example, this first recognition program is based on data reported for 2010.

To be recognized as a top performer on key quality measures an organization must meet two 95 percent performance thresholds. First it must achieve a composite performance of 95 percent or above after the results of all the accountability measures for which it reports data to The Joint Commission were factored into a single score, including measures that had less than 30 eligible cases or patients. Second it must meet or exceed a 95 percent performance target for every single accountability measure for which it reports data, excluding any measures with less than 30 eligible cases or patients.

Yakima Regional was recognized for achieving these thresholds for Heart Attack, Heart Failure and Pneumonia.

“Today, the public expects transparency in the reporting of performance at the hospitals where they receive care, and The Joint Commission is shining a light on the top performing hospitals such as Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center that have achieved excellence on a number of vital measures of quality of care,” said Mark R. Chassin, M.D., FACP, M.P.P., M.P.H., President of The Joint Commission.

“We understand that what matters most to our patients at Yakima Regional is safe, effective care,” said Richard Robinson, CEO. “That’s why Yakima Regional has made a commitment to accreditation and to positive patient outcomes through evidence-based care processes. Yakima Regional is proud to be named to the list of The Joint Commission’s Top Performers on Key Quality Measures,” Robinson said.

In addition to being included in today’s press release of The Joint Commission’s “Improving America’s Hospitals” annual report, <http://www.jointcommission.org/annualreport>, Yakima Regional Medical & Cardiac Center will be recognized on The Joint Commission’s Quality Check website (www.qualitycheck.org).

Note to media: An embargoed copy of the report and an embargoed list of the top performing hospitals around the country is available at http://www.pwrnewmedia.com/2011/joint_commission/annual_report/ . Also available on that web page are details on a nationwide telephone news conference about the report being held at noon Eastern Time, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011.