



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southwestern Medical Center Receives Top 5-Star Rating in the Treatment of Stroke for the Second Consecutive Year (2007 & 2008)
HealthGrades study finds patient outcomes at Southwestern Medical Center among state's best in the treatment of stroke

Lawton, OK (January 1, 2008) -- According to *the Tenth Annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study* issued in October, Southwestern Medical Center is 5-star rated for the Treatment of Stroke for the second year in a row. The study, the largest of its kind, analyzed patient outcomes at virtually all of the nation's 5,000 hospitals over the years 2004, 2005 and 2006. The study also found Southwestern Medical Center is:

- The Best in the Southern Oklahoma Region for Stroke Services for 2008
- The Only 5-Star Rated Stroke Program in Southern Oklahoma in 2008
- Ranked Among the Top 5 in Oklahoma for the Treatment of Stroke in 2008

“I would like to thank the Medical Staff and employees alike for their continued dedication to patient care. Looking forward, we have a number of initiatives in process to better Southwestern Medical Center’s existing services in both stroke care (JCAHO certification in the spring), General Surgery and Neurosurgery” states Jon O’Shaughnessy, CEO, Southwestern Medical Center.

Based on the study results, HealthGrades made available its 2008 quality ratings for virtually every hospital in the country at www.healthgrades.com, a Web site designed to help individuals research and compare local healthcare providers.

Among the study’s key findings:

- Gaps persist between the “best” and the “worst” hospitals across all procedures and conditions studied. Five-star rated hospitals had statistically significantly lower risk-adjusted mortality across all three years studied.

- Across all procedures and conditions studied, there was an approximate 71 percent lower chance of dying in a 5-star rated hospital compared to a 1-star rated hospital.
- Across all procedures and conditions studied, there was an approximate 52 percent lower chance of dying in a 5-star rated hospital compared to the U.S. hospital average.

The 2008 HealthGrades ratings for all hospitals nationwide are available, free of charge, on the organization's award-winning consumer Web site, located at www.healthgrades.com. More than three million individuals and employees of some of the nation's largest employers and health plans visit HealthGrades each 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 Southwestern Medical Center

Southwestern Medical Center, a member of Capella Healthcare's family of hospitals, is a 199-bed hospital serving Comanche County and Southwest Oklahoma. Since 1957, SWMC has been accredited by the Joint Commission. SWMC is also accredited by CARF for our rehabilitation services. SWMC is a winner of the 2006 HealthStream Research Excellence through Insight Award for Outpatient Satisfaction and is the only hospital in Southern Ok 5-star rated for stroke care in 2007 and 2008 by HealthGrades. Southwestern Medical Center has a long history of serving the community with quality care and the latest technology. For more information, please visit www.swmconline.com.

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