



Press Release

1101 Nott Street Schenectady, New York 12308

www.ellishospital.org

For immediate release:

Contact: Donna Evans
243-4407, 341-0375 (pager)

Ellis Hospital Achieves Top Honor in National Quality Study *Only Hospital in the Region, one of five in the state ranked Top 5% in the Nation for Clinical Excellence*

Ellis Hospital has announced that it is ranked among the Top 5% of hospitals nationwide, as a recipient of **HealthGrades' Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence**. Ellis is the only hospital in the Capital Region and one of only five in the state to achieve this distinction for 2009. The ranking is based on a study of patient outcomes in nearly 5,000 hospitals nationwide by HealthGrades --- the nation's leading independent healthcare ratings company. Previously, Ellis was recognized for Clinical Excellence in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

"Quality of care is our highest priority," said Jim Connolly, President & CEO of Ellis Hospital. "We're proud of our dedicated team -- they work hard every day to ensure that our patients receive the best care possible. Our being ranked with such hospitals as the Mayo Clinic and Cedars Sinai is quite an honor and it validates the exceptional efforts of our outstanding staff."

According to the study, hospitals achieving this recognition had the best patient outcomes in the country across a range of 26 procedures and diagnoses ranging from valve replacement surgery, heart failure and stroke to joint replacement and GI surgery. Ellis is among 270 hospitals nationwide to receive recognition for Clinical Excellence.

HealthGrades estimates that if all patients had chosen Distinguished Hospitals, more than 152,000 lives may have been saved and nearly 12,000 major complications avoided. According to the study, **patients treated at top 5% hospitals such as Ellis are on average 27 % less likely to succumb to a procedure and 8% less likely to suffer from major complications.** The study analyzed nearly 41 million records of Medicare patients from all of the nation's nearly 5,000 hospitals from 2005-2007.

HealthGrades is a recognized comparative measure of quality and is viewed as a tool to help consumers make informed decisions about their health care. In this study, HealthGrades looked at how many patients with certain illnesses died or developed complications after surgery or other treatment. The company uses patient data that hospitals routinely submit to the federal government.

For more detailed information on the HealthGrades study follow the link to www.healthgrades.com
HealthGrades Media Contact : Scott Shapiro (720) 963-6584; sshapiro@healthgrades.com