



Press Release

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**Ellis Hospital recognized
as one of the safest hospitals in the country**
*Only hospital in the state ranked Top 5% in the nation
for both Patient Safety and Clinical Excellence*

Schenectady, NY (April 8, 2009) – Ellis Hospital ranks among the top 5% of hospitals nationwide for patient safety, according to a new study released by HealthGrades.

The national health care ratings organization has named Ellis Hospital a recipient of the **2009 Excellence Award for Patient Safety**.

Earlier this year HealthGrades recognized Ellis as a top 5% hospital for Clinical Excellence. Now, with the addition of the Patient Safety award, **Ellis Hospital is the only hospital in New York State to achieve top 5% national ranking in both Clinical Excellence and Patient Safety in 2009.**

“We are pleased to be honored for the outstanding care we provide to our patients and the safe environment in which we deliver it,” said James W. Connolly, president and CEO of Ellis Hospital. “This recognition is a tribute to our exceptional staff and physicians as well as the great leadership of our Board. Ellis' success in the areas of clinical excellence and patient safety are the reasons so many in the region turn to us for care. Together these two prestigious awards add up to an important conclusion – our patients are in the very best of hands!”

HealthGrades ranks Ellis among the top hospitals in the country for patient safety because so few Ellis patients experience adverse or preventable incidents such as: falling out of bed; acquiring bedsores; complications from anesthesia, or developing a blood clot after surgery. Ellis is among 242 hospitals in the country to achieve top ranking, based on a HealthGrades study of patient safety incidents at more than 5,000 hospitals across the country from 2005-2007.

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In the study, HealthGrades estimates that if all hospitals performed at the top level of patient safety, more than 200,000 patient safety incidents and more than 22,000 deaths could have been avoided. According to HealthGrades, patients treated at a hospital receiving this award are, on average, 43 percent less likely to face a patient safety incident than at bottom-performing hospitals.

“We congratulate Ellis Hospital because they continually demonstrate their extraordinary commitment to the reduction of patient safety events,” said Rick May, MD, senior physician consultant at HealthGrades and co-author of the study. “Every hospital across the country should continually strive for improvement,” Dr. May added.

The *HealthGrades Patient Safety Study* applies methodology developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The methodology identifies the incident rates of 15 patient safety indicators among Medicare patients at the nation's nearly 5,000 hospitals.

Additionally, HealthGrades applied its methodology to identify the best-performing hospitals, which represent the top five percent of all U.S. hospitals. HealthGrades developed this award to give patients more information about choosing a hospital.

HealthGrades is recognized as one of many comparative measures of quality and is viewed as a tool to help consumers make informed decisions about their health care. The company uses Medicare data that Ellis and other hospitals routinely submit to the federal government. This study pertained to patients seen in 2005-2007. For more detailed information on the HealthGrades study follow the link to www.healthgrades.com or contact Scott Shapiro (720) 963-6584; sshapiro@healthgrades.com.