

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL NAMED TOP PERFORMER BY HOSPITAL  
QUALITY INCENTIVE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

*Hospital earns Top Improvement and 6 awards status in Medicare,  
Premier healthcare alliance value-based purchasing project*

Orange, Calif. (August 17, 2009) – St. Joseph Hospital of Orange has been named a top performer in a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Premier healthcare alliance value-based purchasing (VBP) project that rewards hospitals for delivering high quality care in five clinical areas.

Based on fourth-year results from the [Hospital Quality Incentive Demonstration](#) (HQID) project, St. Joseph Hospital received 5 awards for Attainment in the clinical areas of AMI, CABG, Heart Failure, Pneumonia and Joint Surgery. Due to its successes, St. Joseph Hospital will receive a bonus payment of \$25,000 from CMS, which awarded incentive payments of approximately \$12 million to 225 hospitals.

Over the course of the first four years of the project, St. Joseph Hospital has received 6 overall awards, including Top Improvement in one clinical area, receiving \$25,000 in awards. CMS has awarded more than \$36.5 million over the first four years of the project.

“St. Joseph Hospital has always taken great pride in providing outstanding patient care,” said Mary Ann Vincent, VP of Quality Improvement. “We are proud of the national recognition we have received for our clinically advanced care.”

“The successes of the hospitals – small and large, urban and rural, teaching and non-teaching – in the HQID project have led to its consideration as the basis for key national health reforms,” said Susan DeVore, Premier President and CEO. “As the proposal of a national value-based purchasing program becomes a reality, hospitals participating in HQID will have six years experience with such a model.”

About the HQID project

The HQID is the first national project of its kind, designed to determine if economic incentives to hospitals are effective at improving the quality of inpatient care. Through the project, which has been extended by CMS for an additional three years, Premier collects a set of more than 30 evidence-based clinical quality measures from almost 250 hospitals across the country. The quality measures were developed by government and

private organizations (for more information on the indicators, visit: [www.qualitydemo.com](http://www.qualitydemo.com)).

HQID tracks process and outcome measures in five clinical areas – acute myocardial infarction (AMI), heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), pneumonia, and hip and knee replacement.

Improvements in quality of care saved an estimated 4,700 acute myocardial infarction (AMI/heart attack) patients across the first four years of the project, according to an analysis of mortality rates at hospitals participating in the project. In addition, patients received approximately 500,000 additional recommended evidence-based clinical quality measures, such as smoking cessation, discharge instructions and pneumococcal vaccination, during that same timeframe.

For hospitals participating in the HQID project, the average Composite Quality Score (CQS), an aggregate of all quality measures within each clinical area, improved by 2.2 percent between the project's third and fourth year for total gains of 17.2 percent over the project's first four years.

Additional research by Premier using the Hospital Compare dataset showed that, by March 2008, HQID participants scored on average 6.9 percentage points higher (94.64 percent to 87.36 percent) than non-participants when evaluating 19 common Hospital Compare measures.

### **About St. Joseph Hospital**

Founded in 1929, St. Joseph Hospital in Orange is a 525-bed, not-for-profit Catholic hospital dedicated to extending the healthcare ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. St. Joseph Hospital's reputation for compassionate care and clinical excellence – as well as its highly recognized 1,000-member medical staff -- has also earned it many nationally acclaimed distinctions: In 2007, 2008 & 2009, St. Joseph Hospital was named one of "America's Best Hospitals" for Orthopedic Care by *U.S. News & World Report*. Out of the more than 5,400 hospitals initially surveyed by the magazine, St. Joseph Hospital's Orthopedic Program ranked 41 among the top 50 for this specialty. The hospital was also named a Magnet hospital for nursing excellence in February 2007; the only hospital on the West Coast selected to participate in the National Cancer Institute's Community Cancer Center Program; ranked a top hospital by the Leapfrog Group's Top Hospitals 2006 list; and named one of the nation's top Healing Hospitals by the Baptist Healing Trust for 2006, 2007, and 2008. In addition, St. Joseph Hospital's dedication to setting healthcare quality standards extends beyond the walls of the hospital's Orange campus. Through many outreach services, a free-standing medical and dental clinic, and four mobile health vans, St. Joseph Hospital meets the needs of the medically

underserved. For more information about St. Joseph Hospital, visit our website at [www.sjo.org](http://www.sjo.org).

About Premier Inc., 2006 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient  
The Premier healthcare alliance is more than 2,200 U.S. hospitals and 58,000-plus other healthcare sites working together to improve healthcare quality and affordability. Premier maintains the nation's most comprehensive repository of clinical, financial and outcomes information and operates a leading healthcare purchasing network. A world leader in helping deliver measurable improvements in care, Premier works with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the United Kingdom's National Health Service North West to improve hospital performance. Premier has offices in San Diego, Charlotte, N.C., Philadelphia and Washington.

####