

**ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL IN ORANGE NAMED ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST
HOSPITALS FOR ORTHOPEDIC CARE**

**Only One of Four Named in State and Only Hospital Ranked in Orthopedic
Specialty in Orange County**

ORANGE, Calif. (July 00, 2008) – For the second consecutive year in its history, St. Joseph Hospital in Orange has been named one of the nation's top hospitals for orthopedic care by U.S. News & World Report.

In its annual "America's Best Hospitals" issue, the magazine's national survey of more than 5,000 hospitals ranked St. Joseph Hospital one of the 50 top hospitals ranked by specialty. The magazine ranked all hospitals through progressively finer screenings to create a list of 173 hospitals ranked in 16 different medical specialties.

St. Joseph Hospital was only hospitals in Orange County named to the Orthopedic Specialty list.

"We are justifiably enthusiastic about this recognition," said Larry K. Ainsworth, chief executive officer of St. Joseph Hospital. "It is a clear tribute to the passion of our fine staff and orthopedic surgeons who provide an exceptional level of compassionate care, clinical acumen and advanced therapies to our patients."

St. Joseph Hospital's orthopedic program features advanced hip and knee replacement, sports medicine, foot and ankle and hand surgery.

Highly regarded by consumers and health care professionals alike, the U.S. News & World Report survey compares hospitals on a national scale to help consumers make better decisions about their health care treatment. The centers are ranked in 16 specialties from pediatrics and cancer to orthopedics and urology. For the 2008 rankings, 200 board-certified physicians in their specialties were selected and surveyed at random from a list of the American Medical Association. Mortality data, reputation, patient volume and other factors were also indexed to create the nation's top specialty medical centers.

###