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Texas Spine and Joint Hospital Top Five Percent: Study
HealthGrades study finds patient outcomes at Texas Spine and Joint Hospital among nation's best for spine surgery

Tyler, TX (October 15, 2007) -- According to *the Tenth Annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study* issued today, **Texas Spine and Joint Hospital** ranks among the top **five percent in the nation** for **spine surgery**. 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 that **Texas Spine and Joint Hospital** is:

- Recipient of the HealthGrades Spine Surgery Excellence Award™
- Five-Star Rated for Joint Replacement
- Five-Star Rated for Spine Surgery
- Five-Star Rated for Total Knee Replacement
- Five-Star Rated for Back and Neck Surgery (except Spinal Fusion)
- Five-Star Rated for Back and Neck Surgery (Spinal Fusion)

“Achieving the highest quality in patient satisfaction and outcomes is the sole focus of Texas Spine & Joint Hospital. The physicians and staff are honored to be recognized by HealthGrades for the 5-star designations and Spine Surgery Excellence Award™,” said Tony Wahl, chief executive officer for Texas Spine & Joint Hospital.

The Tenth Annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study identifies key trends in the quality of care provided by approximately 5,000 hospitals nationwide. HealthGrades researchers analyzed Medicare discharges from virtually every U.S. hospital between 2004 and 2006. Risk-adjusted mortality and complication rates were calculated and hospitals were assigned a 1-star (poor), 3-star (as expected), or 5-star (best) quality rating for 28 diagnoses and procedures from heart failure to hip replacement to pneumonia.

Based on the study, HealthGrades today 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.

“Our research shows that while the overall quality of hospital care in America is improving, the gap between the best-performing hospitals and the worst persists,” said Dr. Samantha Collier, HealthGrades’ chief medical officer and author of the study. “This persistent gap makes it imperative that anyone planning to be admitted to a hospital do their homework and seek out highly rated facilities.”

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 Texas Spine and Joint Hospital

Texas Spine & Joint Hospital is a fully-equipped hospital dedicated to spine and orthopedic services. For information about Texas Spine & Joint Hospital please call 903-525-7002.

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