

Nancy Johnson/ Marketing Coordinator

903.525.7002

nancy.johnson@tsjh.org



September 6, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: ET MEDICINE

Angela Driggs

Texas Spine & Joint Hospital maintains low infection rate for third consecutive year

Texas Spine and Joint Hospital sets the standard for quality patient care by rating below the national average for surgical site infection for the third consecutive year. According to the National Nosocomial Infection Surveillance (NNIS) report, the national average surgical site infection rate for orthopedic hospitals is 3.1percent. TSJH maintained a low infection rate of below 1 percent.

Maintaining low infection rates is a priority at TSJH because According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hospital-acquired infections result in about 90,000 deaths a year, more than AIDS, breast cancer and auto crashes combined. The study also states that most of these infections are preventable.

“We are very proud of the report and work hard to keep our infection rates down,” said Susan Orr, infection control nurse. “We have specific policies and procedures in place to keep those rates down. This study demonstrates the efforts we are making to maintain high-quality care for our patients.”

Patients benefit because low infection rates help keep costs down for them. The NCPA study revealed hospital-acquired infections cost hospitals an added \$30 billion each year. One infection can cost hospitals an average of \$15,275, according to the study.

For more information about the NNIS report, contact Nancy Johnson, Marketing Director at (903) 525- 7002 .