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**STUDY: KETTERING MEDICAL CENTER RANKS IN NATION'S
TOP 5 PERCENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

HealthGrades Study Evaluates Patient Outcomes at 4,900 Hospitals

KETTERING, Ohio (July 7, 2010) – Kettering Medical Center's emergency medicine care has been found to be among the top 5 percent in the nation according to a new study released today by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization. As a result, Kettering Medical Center is a recipient of the HealthGrades 2010 Emergency Medicine Excellence Award™.

Of the 4,900 hospitals examined for their mortality rates in 11 of the most common conditions for Medicare patients associated with emergency medicine, only 255 received this award.

As a group, Kettering Medical Center and the other award recipients had a 39% lower mortality rate for the 11 conditions studied. The mortality rates were risk-adjusted so that hospitals with sicker and older patients could be compared on equal footing with other hospitals.

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“Our Emergency Department staff never stops striving to get better,” said Roy Chew, PHD, Kettering Medical Center President. “They regularly organize four-hour seminars and all the ED doctors and nurses participate, learning the latest techniques for handling even the most unusual situations. This commitment to continuing education shows how the staff cares deeply for our patients, and I believe this is why they earn honors like this one from HealthGrades.”

The study used 5 million Medicare patient records from 2006, 2007 and 2008 to analyze mortality rates in the following eleven procedures: bowel obstruction, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetic acidosis and coma, gastrointestinal bleed, heart attack, pancreatitis, pneumonia, pulmonary embolism, respiratory failure, sepsis and stroke.

Hospitals in the top 5 percent improved their patient outcomes in these 11 conditions 16% over the time period studied, compared with a 10% improvement for all other hospitals in the U.S.

“With the CDC showing that 50 percent of hospital admissions are now beginning with hospital emergency rooms, it’s more important than ever for hospitals to reach the level of excellence achieved by those in the top 5 percent of this study,” said Rick May MD, a vice president with HealthGrades and co-author of the study. “Those living in a community with a top 5 percent hospital in emergency medicine should feel extremely confident that, should an emergency arise, they will receive top-notch care.”

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