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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. ELIZABETH'S HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS A BLUE
DISTINCTION CENTER FOR CARDIAC CARE®**

BELLEVILLE, IL – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois has designated St. Elizabeth's Hospital as a Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care. To date, more than 400 facilities nationwide have received a Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care designation.

Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care demonstrate their commitment to quality care, resulting in better overall outcomes for cardiac patients. St. Elizabeth's meets evidence-based clinical criteria, developed in collaboration with expert physicians and medical organizations, including the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), and is subject to periodic re-evaluation as criteria to continue to evolve.

"This distinction is a result of our commitment to quality outcomes and service here at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. We are always looking at ways to improve patient

care to get the best outcomes,” stated Sue Beeler, Cardiac Cath Lab Manager.

“The dedicated staff and Cardiologists here at St. Elizabeth’s are always striving for excellence.”

To be designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care, St. Elizabeth’s Hospital met the selection criteria, which includes:

- An established cardiac care program, performing required annual volumes for certain procedures
- Appropriate experience of its cardiac team, including sub-specialty board certification for interventional cardiologists and cardiac surgeons
- An established acute care inpatient facility, including intensive care, emergency and a full range of cardiac services
- Full accreditation by The Joint Commission, Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP) or national equivalent
- Low overall complication and mortality rates
- A comprehensive quality management program

Blue Distinction is a designation awarded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies to medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality healthcare.

About St. Elizabeth’s Hospital St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, in Belleville, IL, maintains a Gold Seal of approval from the Joint Commission. The hospital was founded by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in 1875. Today, we continue their mission: to provide care for the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence and joy. For more information please contact Kelly Barbeau at 618.234.2120, extension 1270.

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