



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL AWARDED ACCREDITATION
FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION**

BELLEVILLE, IL – St. Elizabeth's Hospital has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™ for accreditation by demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety in hospitals. The accreditation award recognizes St. Elizabeth's dedication to continuous compliance with The Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards.

The hospital underwent a rigorous unannounced on-site survey in December 2010. A team of Joint Commission expert surveyors evaluated the health care organization for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management.

"In achieving Joint Commission accreditation, St. Elizabeth's Hospital has demonstrated its commitment to the highest level of care for its patients," says Mark Pelletier, R.N., M.S., executive director, Hospital Programs, Accreditation and Certification Services, The Joint Commission. "Accreditation is a voluntary process and I commend St. Elizabeth's for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate its standard of care and instill confidence in the community it serves."

St. Elizabeth's administration received the official notification of accreditation from The Joint Commission on July 18, 2011. The accreditation is effective beginning December 19, 2010, and is valid for up to 36 months.

"With Joint Commission accreditation, we continue the mission of HSHS by providing quality care for the families in the region we serve. Joint Commission accreditation provides us a framework to take our organization to the next level and helps create a culture of excellence," says Maryann Reese, St. Elizabeth's Hospital President and CEO. "Continuing our Joint Commission accreditation, for our organization, is a major step toward maintaining excellence and continually improving the care we provide."

The Joint Commission's hospital standards address important functions relating to the care of patients and the management of hospitals. The standards are developed in consultation with health care experts, providers, measurement experts and patients.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 18,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.

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About Hospital Sisters Health System

Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy, at each of its 13 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org.