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For Immediate Release

MORRISTOWN MEMORIAL RANKS IN TOP 100 HOSPITALS FOR CARDIOVASCULAR CARE Thomas Reuters Announces Hospitals that Set National Benchmarks for Quality

MORRISTOWN, NJ NOVEMBER 21, 2008 — Morristown Memorial Hospital's cardiovascular services were recognized by Thomson Reuters Healthcare as one of the top 100 U.S. hospitals that is setting the nation's benchmarks for cardiovascular care. The annual study, "Thomas Reuters 100 Top Hospitals: Cardiovascular Benchmarks for Success," examined the performance of 970 hospitals by analyzing clinical outcomes for patients diagnosed with heart failure and heart attacks and for those who received coronary bypass surgery and angioplasties.

The Top 100 recognition comes one week after the opening of the Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute's flagship facility, a 200,000-square-foot hospital building that will consolidate all cardiovascular services for Morristown Memorial Hospital. The Gagnon brand also includes cardiovascular programs housed at Overlook Hospital in Summit and represents the largest hospital of its kind in the state with the most cardiac bypass surgeries and cardiac catheterizations.

"This designation recognizes Morristown Memorial and now the Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute as a stand-out facility for cardiovascular care in the region," said Frank Smart, MD, chairman of cardiovascular services, Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute. "Gagnon's comprehensive services and world-class physicians and staff continuously striving to offer our patients the latest in diagnosis and treatment technology and prevention techniques."

Also this week, Morristown Memorial became the only hospital in New Jersey, and one of 93 nationwide, to receive the ACTION Registry – Get With The Guidelines Silver Performance Achievement Award in recognition of its adherence to the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association guidelines for treatment of heart attacks. Morristown Memorial also was designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care from Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

"These hospitals provide enormous value to their communities because heart disease is still the nation's number one killer. They have set the new national standard for cardiovascular disease outcomes, process of care, efficiency, and lower costs," said Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president for performance improvement and 100 Top Hospitals programs in the Healthcare business of Thomson Reuters.

The Thomson Reuters study, in its 10th year, found that the 100 Top Hospitals cardiovascular award winners, as a group, performed 63 percent more bypass surgeries and 42 percent more angioplasties than peer hospitals. This may suggest that performance of bypass surgery is increasingly performed in centers of excellence. While the average mortality rate for cardiovascular patients is very low (3.4 percent), the mortality rate for bypass surgery was 26 percent lower in the 100 Top Hospitals cardiovascular winners. The award-winning hospitals demonstrated higher performance on the evidence-based core measures published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and cost \$1,542 less per case, on average.

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