



# CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SYSTEM

## **NOT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HealthGrades ranks Christiana Care Health System among best in nation**

*Independent study gives Christiana Care top scores in Cardiac, Pulmonary, Stroke and Critical Care Services*

**Wilmington, DE (Oct. 16, 2006)** – Christiana Care Health System announces it has been ranked among the top ten percent in the nation for Cardiac Surgery, Pulmonary, Stroke and Critical Care services according to a comprehensive study released by HealthGrades, the nation's leading healthcare ratings company.

Christiana Care is also a recipient of the HealthGrades Stroke Care Excellence Award™ for the third year in a row as well as the Pulmonary and Critical Care Excellence Awards™ two years in a row. Other top accolades include the following:

- **Only Hospital in Delaware to be a Recipient of the 2007 HealthGrades Cardiac Surgery Excellence Award™**
- **Ranked #1 in Delaware for Overall Cardiac Care – Four Years in a Row (2004 - 2007)**
- **Ranked #1 in Delaware for Overall Critical Care Services - Two Years in a Row (2006, 2007)**
- **Ranked Best #1 in Delaware for Overall Gastrointestinal Procedures - 2007**

“HealthGrades’ recognition acknowledges the excellent work that Christiana Care’s surgeons, physicians, nurses, and health professionals do every day to care for our neighbors when they are sick,” says Bob Laskowski, M.D., Christiana Care President and CEO. “We intend to build on this recognition and continue to bring the best medical personnel, facilities, equipment and services to Christiana Care so we can carry on our mission of serving Delaware and the region.”

As part of its ninth annual *Hospital Quality in America Study*, HealthGrades independently analyzed more than 5,000 hospitals in all 50 states and the District of Columbia for its 2007 ratings, objectively assessing their clinical outcomes and quality. The 40 million hospitalization records utilized in the assessment are publicly available and licensed from the federal government’s Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The HealthGrades ratings take into account varying degrees of patient severity from hospital to hospital and



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measure whether patient outcomes for each of more than two dozen procedures and diagnoses are better than expected (5-Star), as expected (3-Star) or worse than expected (1-Star).

“HealthGrades objectively assesses and rates hospital performance in order to help consumers make better and more informed health care choices,” explains Samantha Collier, M.D., HealthGrades vice president of medical affairs. “With consumers having a greater stake in their healthcare purchasing decisions, it’s important for them to know that there is a tremendous difference in clinical quality outcomes between hospitals.”

“In Delaware, Christiana Care Health System stands out notably in terms of delivering quality care for its patients,” Collier adds. “Patients, families and employers here truly have access to healthcare that is among the best in the nation.”

The 2007 HealthGrades ratings for all hospitals nationwide are available, free of charge, on the organization’s award-winning consumer Web site, located at [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com). More than three million individuals and employees of 125 major employers and health plans visit HealthGrades each month to access quality information about hospitals, nursing homes and physicians. HealthGrades also provides consumers and payers with detailed assessments of hospitals’ patient-safety outcomes, based on indicators developed by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

### ***About Christiana Care Health System***

Christiana Care Health System, which dates back to 1888, is one of the region's largest not-for profit health care providers, serving the people of Delaware as well as neighboring areas of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. A teaching hospital, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest intensity). Christiana Care operates two hospitals, transitional care services, preventive medicine and rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physician offices and an extensive range of outpatient and home health services. Christiana Care provided \$ 25.2 million of charity care last year.

### ***About HealthGrades***

HealthGrades (Nasdaq:HGRD) is the leading healthcare ratings company, providing ratings and profiles of hospitals, nursing homes and physicians to consumers, corporations, health plans and hospitals. Millions of consumers and hundreds of the nation’s largest employers, health plans and hospitals rely on HealthGrades’ independent ratings to make healthcare decisions based on the quality of care. More information on the company can be found at <http://www.healthgrades.com>.

**Note to editors:** Dr. Laskowski is available for telephone interviews on Monday from 11 a.m. to noon. Please call Spiros Mantzavinos at 302-327-3344 to schedule.

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