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## **Stormont-Vail's Total Joint Center Awarded Certification from the Joint Commission**

(Topeka, Sept. 17, 2010) – Stormont-Vail HealthCare's Total Joint Center program has earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ for health care quality, demonstrating a commitment to a higher standard of service. The Joint Commission awarded Stormont-Vail HealthCare Disease-Specific Care Certification for joint replacement for both knee and hip.

To earn this distinction, a disease management program undergoes an extensive, on-site evaluation by a team of Joint Commission reviewers every two years. The program is evaluated against Joint Commission standards through an assessment of a program's processes, the program's ability to evaluate and improve care within its own organization, and interviews with patients and staff.

"This certification means Stormont-Vail HealthCare does the right things and does them well for patients' receiving knee and hip replacement," said Jean E. Range, M.S., R.N., C.P.H.Q., executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, Joint Commission.

"Stormont-Vail HealthCare voluntarily pursued this comprehensive, independent evaluation to enhance the safety and quality of care we provide," said Maynard Oliverius, president and CEO of Stormont-Vail HealthCare. "We're proud to achieve this distinction."

The Joint Commission launched its Disease-Specific Care Certification program in 2002. It is the first program of its kind in the country to certify disease management programs. A list of programs certified by the Joint Commission is available at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

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, including more than 9,500 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,300 other health care organizations that provide long term care, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. In addition, the Joint Commission also provides certification of more than 1,000 disease-specific care programs, primary stroke centers, and health care staffing services. 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](http://www.jointcommission.org).

The Stormont-Vail Total Joint Center is a comprehensive program for joint replacement surgery. Patient education programs, our dedicated team approach, and use of the latest procedures and technology all combine to enhance outcomes. The program started in 2005 and only cares for patients with knee and hip replacements.

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