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For Immediate Release

Society of Thoracic Surgeons Ranks Stormont-Vail HealthCare Cardiac Surgery Program Among the Highest Tier for Excellence for a Second Time

(Topeka, Kan., May 28, 2009) – Stormont-Vail HealthCare cardiac surgery program has been awarded the highest designation of three-stars for its cardiac surgical program for the second time. The team recently received a top tier, three-star rating for Adult Cardiac Surgery from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS).

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons has recently developed a comprehensive rating system that allows for comparisons regarding the quality of cardiac surgery among hospitals across the country. Locally, Shanti Gandhi, M.D., FACS, FRCS–C, David Lutes, M.D. and Peter Tutuska, M.D., FACS provide the necessary leadership to the cardiac surgical team and this has led to being the recipient of the STS highest rating of three-stars. The current analysis of national data covered the period from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 and January 1, 2008 to Dec. 31, 2008. The three-star designation was determined as part of a comprehensive rating system that compares the quality of cardiac surgery among hospitals across the country. “These results reflect a level of intense focus to quality and detail provided by this multi-disciplinary cardiac surgical team,” said Kent Palmberg, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Stormont-Vail HealthCare.

The STS comprehensive rating system takes into account many aspects of cardiac surgery, including:

- Low mortality rates
- Medication usage at time of surgery

- Low number of complications

This three-star rating is further evidence that patients who undergo cardiac surgery at Stormont-Vail are receiving outstanding clinical care, which rivals the best programs in the United States. This superior rating is highly regarded by medical professionals to be the gold standard by which entire cardiac surgery programs are rated.

CALL TO ACTION ENDING FOR PRESS RELEASE:

To learn more about the top tier cardiac program at Stormont-Vail HealthCare, please contact Nancy Burkhardt, Director of Marketing, Stormont-Vail HealthCare, at (785) 575-5493.

CALL TO ACTION ENDING FOR CONSUMERS:

To learn more about the top tier cardiac program at Stormont-Vail HealthCare, call Health Connections, the Stormont-Vail nurse resource line, at (785) 354-5225.

About Cotton-O'Neil Clinic

Cotton-O'Neil Clinic is the largest multi-specialty physician group in Topeka, Kan. There are currently more than 177 physicians affiliated with Cotton-O'Neil Clinic, PediatricCare, Medical Arts Clinic and the additional regional clinics that reach out to communities surrounding Topeka. As a group, they make up the Medical Services Division of Stormont-Vail HealthCare, and function as an integrated health care delivery system. Medical Arts Clinic joined Cotton-O'Neil Clinic in 1994. Cotton-O'Neil Clinic merged with Stormont-Vail HealthCare, a Joint Commission-approved, and non-profit organization in 1995. Together, they care for patients throughout northeast Kansas.

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