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For Immediate Release

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Stormont-Vail HealthCare Awarded Joint Commission's Certification as a Primary Stroke Center

(Topeka, Kan., July 23, 2010) – Stormont-Vail HealthCare has earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers. Stormont-Vail earned this distinction after the Joint Commission conducted an unannounced on-site review in June.

The Joint Commission awards certification to centers that make exceptional efforts to foster better outcomes for stroke care. “We are proud to achieve this distinction,” said Maynard Oliverius, President and CEO, Stormont-Vail HealthCare. “This certification recognizes the comprehensive and multi-disciplinary care that Stormont-Vail clinicians provide to stroke patients 24-hours a day.”

Each year about 700,000 people experience a new or recurrent stroke, which is the nation's third leading cause of death. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 45 seconds and someone dies of a stroke every 3.1 minutes. Stroke is a leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States, with about 4.7 million stroke survivors alive today.

“The Joint Commission knows what works,” said Douglas Rose, M.D., and Chief Medical Quality Officer for Stormont-Vail HealthCare. “We’ve proven to them that we’ve instituted the best practices in stroke care and that means better outcomes for patients.”

The Joint Commission's Primary Stroke Center Certification is based on the recommendations for primary stroke centers published by the Brain Attack Coalition

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and the American Stroke Association's statements/guidelines for stroke care. The Joint Commission launched the program—the nation's first—in 2003. A list of programs certified by the Joint Commission is available at www.jointcommission.org.

About The Joint Commission

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 17,000 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.

About Stormont-Vail HealthCare

Stormont-Vail HealthCare is an integrated health care system that has been serving the health care needs of northeast Kansas for more than 125 years. It is comprised of Stormont-Vail Regional Health Center, a 586-bed acute care hospital, and the Cotton-O'Neil Clinic, a multi-specialty physician group with nearly 200 physicians. More than 4,000 employees provide care and support services for patients in the hospital and 27 other locations, including the Cotton-O'Neil Heart Center, Cancer Center, Diabetes and Endocrinology Center, Digestive Health Center, the Pediatric Care clinic and multiple regional primary care clinics. Stormont-Vail HealthCare is committed to its mission of improving the health of the community by providing high quality, compassionate care with state-of-the-art equipment in convenient, comfortable facilities for patients and families.

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