

Title: PMC Gets Five Stars for Third Year in a Row

Pocatello, ID – Portneuf Medical Center today announced that it again received recognition for the quality of its Cardiac Surgery care from HealthGrades, the healthcare ratings company.

The hospital has been ranked #1 in Idaho for Coronary Interventions and is the only hospital to have achieved a five star rating for three years in a row. HealthGrades also recognized Portneuf for its five star rating in Cardiac Bypass Surgery for the past two years.

“This award means an incredible amount to the Heart and Vascular team at the hospital. But **more important is what it means to the community. It shows we can provide sophisticated services typically found only in larger cities in a consistent, high quality manner,**” said Jacob DeLaRosa, M.D., Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeon at Portneuf’s Heart and Vascular Center.

“This community can be extremely proud of the quality of care provided at Portneuf. Our partnership with the medical staff here is what makes our Heart and Vascular Center great. When you consider the talent vested in the surgeons, nurses, and support staff, **the team produces amazing results. We simply couldn’t be happier with this recognition,**” commented Pat Hermanson, Portneuf CEO.

These findings were included in the eleventh annual *HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study*, which analyzed more than 41 million Medicare hospitalization records from 2005 to 2007 at the nation’s approximately 5,000 non-federal hospitals. Also according to the study, patients treated at the nation’s top-rated hospitals have a 70 percent lower chance of dying compared with the lowest-rated hospitals across 17 common procedures and conditions, ranging from heart attack and pneumonia care to respiratory failure.

MORE>>

Community Relations - Office: 239-2121 - Media: 251-2768 - Email: annsw@portmed.org

On its Web site, HealthGrades (www.healthgrades.com) offers, free to consumers, quality ratings of 27 procedures and treatments for virtually every hospital in the country. The Web site is designed so that consumers can easily compare patient outcomes at their local hospitals for procedures ranging from aortic aneurysm repair to bypass surgery. Each hospital receives a star rating based on its patient outcomes in terms of mortality or complication rates for each procedure or treatment. **Hospitals with outcomes that are above average to a statistically significant degree receive a five-star rating.** Hospitals with average outcomes receive a three-star rating, and hospitals with outcomes that are below average receive a one-star rating. Because no two hospitals or their patients' risk profiles are alike, HealthGrades employs extensive risk-adjustment algorithms to ensure that it is making analogous comparisons.

###

Community Relations - Office: 239-2121 - Media: 251-2768 - Email: annsw@portmed.org

