



NEWS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release

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## **St. Luke's Boise/Meridian Medical Centers Recognized Nationally for Clinical Excellence**

VHA Inc., a national health care network, has given St. Luke's Boise and Meridian Medical Centers a 2010 VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence.

The award recognizes St. Luke's for meeting or exceeding national performance standards for clinical care.

St. Luke's Boise and Meridian received the award as a combined hospital. St. Luke's was one of only eight hospitals nationwide to receive the designation.

The VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence honors hospitals for improving clinical quality, patient safety or the patient experience, and the winners had to meet defined standards for patient care across four clinical areas:

- Heart attacks
- Heart failure
- Pneumonia
- Surgical infection prevention

"Clinical excellence is at the forefront of everything we strive for at St. Luke's," said Gary Fletcher, St. Luke's Boise/Meridian CEO. "It's an honor to be recognized and a validation for our leadership, physician and staff that we are making progress toward providing the very best in quality health care."

The VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence is the highest level of recognition bestowed by VHA for clinical care.

"The VHA Leadership Award recognizes hospitals that demonstrated superior performance across multiple domains of care," said Trent Haywood, M.D., J.D., chief medical officer at VHA. "

The VHA award is the latest in a series of national recognitions for St. Luke's Boise and Meridian Medical Centers.

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In March, St. Luke's Boise and Meridian were included in the 2009 Thomson 100 Top Hospitals National Benchmarks study for a third year in a row. The Study recognizes the nation's top hospitals based on organizational performance. St. Luke's was the only Idaho hospital to make the list, and one of only four in the West. Since 1993, St. Luke's has made the Top 100 list seven times. In November 2009, St. Luke's also received its second consecutive recognition as a Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospital for Cardiovascular Care.

### **About St. Luke's Health System**

*St. Luke's Health System is Idaho's largest and only locally controlled health care system employing more than 7,800 people. With hospitals in Boise, Meridian, Ketchum and Twin Falls, St. Luke's provides patients with unmatched care in specialized medical fields including cancer, heart and vascular, obstetrics, women's services and children's health care. For more information, visit [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org).*

### **About VHA**

*VHA Inc., based in Irving, Texas, is a national network of not-for-profit health care organizations that work together to drive maximum savings in the supply chain arena, set new levels of clinical performance and identify and implement best practices to improve operational efficiency and clinical outcomes. Formed in 1977, through its 16 regional offices, VHA serves more than 1,400 hospitals and more than 28,000+ non-acute care providers nationwide. VHA was ranked by Modern Healthcare as the 7th best place to work in health care in 2009. For more information, visit [www.vha.com](http://www.vha.com).*