



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ST. LUKE'S IS SETTING EXAMPLES FOR OTHER HOSPITALS AROUND THE NATION

Boise, ID (May 20, 2007) – In recognition of St. Luke's Boise/Meridian commitment to excellent care, St. Luke's was one of twelve VHA hospitals to be awarded with the 2007 VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence for achieving the benchmarks set in four out of six specific care categories. St. Luke's was also one of six VHA hospitals to be re-designated as a Magnet hospital, and as a result, received the 2007 VHA Leadership Award for Operational Excellence. As a winner in both Clinical and Operational Excellence, St. Luke's was presented with the President's Award of Honor, an award given to only 20 organizations nationally.

"To ensure proper patient outcomes, our staff focuses on meeting national indicators of quality," said Gary Fletcher, CEO of St. Luke's Boise/Meridian. "Not only are we providing high quality care to our patients, we are doing it consistently and that's something we're extremely proud of."

St. Luke's is setting a high standard for providing quality care by focusing on two different care spectrums, clinical excellence and operational excellence. St. Luke's meets the high standards of clinical excellence by achieving performance at the 90 percent or above level on clinical core measures set by **CMS and JCAHO** in surgical infection prevention, heart failure, acute myocardial infarction, and controlling blood stream infections. St. Luke's meets the high standard of operational excellence through Magnet re-designation in 2006, which is recognition for excellence in nursing care, the gold standard by which nursing is measured.

VHA Inc., a national health care alliance, honored St. Luke's at VHA's Leadership Conference in Denver on May 20. VHA serves more than 2,400 health care organizations nationwide, including 1,400 hospitals.

"At the heart of the covenant between patients and hospitals lies the belief that clinical excellence is paramount," said Trent Haywood, M.D., J.D., chief medical officer at VHA. "St. Luke's is a shining example of what can be achieved when a hospital's actions are guided by the pursuit of clinical excellence."

Founded in 1902, St. Luke's Boise Regional Medical Center is a 369-bed community hospital. St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center is a 104-bed community hospital that began providing a full range of hospital services in 2001. St. Luke's Boise and St. Luke's Meridian are both designated as a Magnet hospital, the gold standard for nursing excellence.

(MORE)

St. Luke's Health System is Idaho's only locally owned, not-for-profit health system. The system offers a full continuum of care through its four hospitals and more than 30 outpatient centers and clinics. St. Luke's Health System's 6,400 employees, 867-member medical staff, and more than 850 volunteers are committed to delivering the highest quality care to those in medical need regardless of their ability to pay. With a mission "To improve the health of people in our region," St. Luke's Health System provided \$138 million (including capital) in community benefit during its 2006 fiscal year. The hospitals of St. Luke's Health System have earned numerous national awards and recognition for excellence in patient care. For more information about St. Luke's Health System, visit www.stlukesonline.org.

About VHA – VHA Inc., based in Irving, Texas, is a national alliance that provides industry-leading supply chain management services and supports the formation of regional and national networks to help members improve their clinical and economic performance. With 17 offices across the U.S., VHA has a track record of proven results in serving more than 2,400 health care organizations nationwide.

NOTE: VHA is not an acronym; use VHA Inc. on first reference and VHA thereafter.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS:

- 65 VHA member hospitals won Clinical Excellence awards for efforts in two or more of the clinical categories.
- Only 20 hospitals won an award in three clinical categories.
- 12 hospitals won an award in four clinical categories.
- 1 won an award for work in five clinical categories.
- 1 hospital won for achievements in six clinical categories.

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