

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Women & Children's Hospital Receives Gold Level  
Louisiana Hospital Quality Award**

**Lake Charles, LA.** (July 6, 2010) - Women & Children's Hospital has received the **Gold Level 2009 Louisiana Hospital Quality Award**, presented by eQHealth Solutions, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization from Louisiana. The award was announced at the annual Louisiana Health Care Quality Summit hosted by eQHealth Solutions in Baton Rouge. With this award, Women & Children's Hospital has been recognized for improving the quality of health care given to their patients, and Women & Children's Hospital is one of 78 hospitals in the state to receive the 2009 Louisiana Hospital Quality Award.

**The Hospital Quality Award** honors Louisiana hospitals that successfully implement quality initiatives directed toward improving patient care in the hospital setting. The award recognizes those facilities that are actively engaged in improving care in one or more of the following areas:

- Acute Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack)
- Heart Failure
- Pneumonia
- Surgical Care

The clinical topics measured for the awards have been designated as national health care priorities by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Staff members from Women & Children's Hospital have been working with quality improvement specialists from eQHealth Solutions to use proven, evidence-based practices to improve care for their patients.

"When we began these awards five years ago, we had several goals. The first was to recognize providers who had achieved measured improvements inpatient care as determined by national standards," said Gary Curtis, CEO of eQHealth Solutions. "Then, by publicizing these results, our second goal was to create an environment that encouraged others to strive for this same recognition."

Curtis said that based on the increasing number of providers who are making these improvements, the ultimate goal of improved care is occurring. "One provider at a time, one patient encounter at a time, the quality of health care continues to improve throughout Louisiana," he added.

"I am extremely proud of the entire health care team of Women & Children's Hospital. This award highlights the fact that we are dedicated to providing the very best in patient care and our efforts have been enhanced through our quality improvement partnerships with eQHealth Solutions. It is a great honor to be a recipient of this distinguished award," said Bryan Bateman, Chief Executive Officer of Women & Children's Hospital.

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**About Women & Children's Hospital:** Women & Children's Hospital (WCH) is a full-service acute care hospital located at 4200 Nelson Road, Lake Charles, LA 70605. WCH is the area's preferred leader for Women's Services and offers inpatient, outpatient, medical and surgical care for men, women and children. WCH is a recognized Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence and is equipped with a 24-hour, physician-staffed Emergency Department and a Level 3 Neonatal ICU. For more information about WCH, visit [www.women-childrens.com](http://www.women-childrens.com).