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French Hospital is One of Nation's Top Hospitals
*Dignity Health of the Central Coast hospital also honored for greatest
improvement in five years*

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – April 19, 2012 – French Hospital Medical Center (FHMC), a Dignity Health member which also includes Arroyo Grande Community Hospital and Marian Regional Medical Center, has been named one of the **Nation's 100 Top Hospitals®** by Thomson Reuters, a leading provider of information solutions to improve the cost and quality of health care.

French Hospital has also received the elite title of **Everest Award Winner** — those hospitals among the **100 Top Hospitals®** that delivered the greatest rate of improvement over five years.

“There is no greater honor bestowed on a hospital than to be recognized as one of the nation's **Top 100**. And, the **Everest Award** says that French is one of the best of the best,” said FHMC President and CEO Alan Ifiniuk. “This honor is the result of a passionate and strongly committed team of caregivers, physicians, support staff and professional managers. I could not be any more proud of our sustained efforts to continuously improve the level of care at French Hospital Medical Center.”

The Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals® study evaluates performance in 10 areas: mortality; medical complications; patient safety; average patient stay; expenses; profitability; patient satisfaction; adherence to clinical standards of care; post-discharge mortality; and readmission rates for acute myocardial infarction (heart attack), heart failure, and pneumonia. The study has been conducted annually since 1993.

The Top 100 Hospitals study is an unsolicited survey conducted by the impartial Thomson Reuters, which evaluated 2,886 short-term, acute-care, non-federal hospitals this year. The study chose the winners after reviewing public information – Medicare cost reports, Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MedPAR) data, and core measures and patient satisfaction data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hospital compare website.

This recognition also comes on the heels of the recent award FHMC received as one of the Top 50 Cardiac Hospitals in the nation; an honor given to FHMC for the third time in the last four years. Additionally, in 2008, FHMC was named a Top 100 Cardiac Hospital in the nation.



“This year, the concentration of 100 Top Hospitals award winners has shifted significantly, with Texas, Florida and California housing the most winners,” said Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president at Thomson Reuters. “A major change in the performance geographically is an encouraging indication that the bar for quality care has been raised once again.”

Based on comparisons between the study winners and a peer group of similar high-volume hospitals that were not winners, Thomson Reuters found that if all hospitals performed at the level of this year’s winners:

- More than 186,000 additional lives could be saved.
- Approximately 56,000 additional patients could be complication-free.
- More than \$4.3 billion could be saved.
- The average patient stay would decrease by nearly half a day.

Thomson Reuters based this analysis on the Medicare patients included in this study. If the same standards were applied to all inpatients, the impact would be even greater. More information on this study and other 100 Top Hospitals research is available at www.100tophospitals.com.

About French Hospital Medical Center

French Hospital Medical Center, located in San Luis Obispo, California, is rated one of the Top 100 Hospitals in the nation and one of the Top 50 Cardiac Hospitals in the nation by Thomson Reuters. The Copeland, Forbes, and Rossi Cardiac Care Center provides the latest innovative cardiac and imaging technology on the Central Coast. The hospital’s current modernization and redesign project is an example of the commitment to meet the growing needs of the community with lifesaving advancements in medicine coupled with excellent, compassionate care. The hospital is home to the unique Hearst Cancer Resource Center offering free education, resources and support to cancer patients and their families. French is a Dignity Health member of the Central Coast which also includes Arroyo Grande Community Hospital in Arroyo Grande, CA and Marian Regional Medical Center in Santa Maria, CA. Dignity Health of the Central Coast is an integrated network of top quality hospitals, physicians from the most prestigious medical schools, and comprehensive outpatient services including primary care offices, premier ambulatory surgery centers, technologically-advanced laboratories and imaging centers and a full service home health agency; all recognized for quality, safety and service. Each hospital is supported by an active philanthropic Foundation to help meet the growing health care needs of our communities.