

## MAINLAND MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR PULMONARY CARE

*Mainland Medical Center's quality awards rank its care among the top 10% nationally*

*Findings are based on HealthGrades' 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Hospital Quality in America Study*

**TEXAS CITY, TX (October 14, 2008)** – Mainland Medical Center today announced that it has received the 2009 clinical excellence award for pulmonary care from HealthGrades, the nation's leading healthcare ratings company. This award places Mainland Medical Center's clinical outcomes in the top ten percent nationally for pulmonary care. This award is in addition to the 2008 clinical excellence recognition for gastrointestinal care.

Additional 2009 HealthGrades clinical achievements include:

- Five-Star Rated for Overall Pulmonary Services
- Five-Star Rated for Treatment of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Five-Star Rated for Treatment of Pneumonia

Melinda Stephenson, Mainland Medical Center Chief Executive Officer says she is extremely proud of the fact that Mainland Medical Center has been recognized by such a highly-respected national ranking organization. "It is an outstanding accomplishment for Mainland Medical Center to receive such an honor for providing quality care to our patients and for serving our community," she said.

These findings were included in the eleventh annual *HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study*, which is the most comprehensive study of its kind, analyzing more than 41 million Medicare hospitalization records from 2005 to 2007 at the nation's approximately 5,000 non-federal hospitals. According to the study, if all hospitals performed at the level of five-star rated hospitals, 237,420 Medicare deaths could potentially have been prevented over the three years studied. More than half of those preventable deaths were associated with four conditions: sepsis, pneumonia, heart failure and respiratory failure.

While overall death rates declined from 2005 to 2007, the nation's best-performing hospitals were able to reduce preventable deaths at a much faster rate than poor-performing hospitals, resulting in large state, regional and hospital-to-hospital variations in the quality of patient care, the study found.

"Mainland Medical Center's 18-bed Intensive Care Unit, with an experienced nursing staff, and vast array of support services, provides us with the means to treat virtually all our patients," said David Nickeson, M.D. Fellow Pulmonologist Joseph Prince agreed. "Pulmonary patients who are admitted to the hospital receive the finest care, including 24-hour monitoring and pulmonary function testing, with same-day results. These high caliber services support our efforts to provide our patients with the best possible care," Dr. Prince said.

Based on the study, HealthGrades today made available its 2009 quality ratings for virtually every hospital in the country at [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com), a Web site designed to help individuals research and compare local healthcare providers.

On its Web site, HealthGrades 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.

Mainland Medical Center is a 223 bed full-service hospital centrally located in Galveston County that provides quality, compassionate care to thousands of area residents.