



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 14, 2008**

**Contact:** Larissa Spraker  
(602) 532-1009  
[larissa.spraker@azhearhospital.com](mailto:larissa.spraker@azhearhospital.com)

## **ARIZONA HEART HOSPITAL RANKS #1 IN ARIZONA FOR OVERALL CARDIAC CARE AND VASCULAR SURGERY**

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

**PHOENIX (October 14, 2008)** – Arizona Heart Hospital today announced that it has received the 2009 Cardiac Care Excellence Award™ from HealthGrades, the healthcare ratings company. This award recognizes Arizona Heart Hospital's clinical excellence for treating heart patients, placing the facility in the top five percent nationally for overall cardiac care. In addition, HealthGrades recognizes Arizona Heart Hospital as number one in Arizona for cardiology services and number one for cardiac interventions such as angioplasty or insertion of a coronary stent.

The rankings are based on a new study released today by HealthGrades. Arizona Heart Hospital fared well in the study, also receiving the number one ranking in Arizona for vascular surgery, driven by a five-star rating for carotid surgery. The hospital ranks among the top ten percent nationally for vascular surgery, making it a recipient of HealthGrades 2009 Vascular Surgery Excellence Award™.

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.

For 10 years, Arizona Heart Hospital has served as the area's leading hospital for the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases," said Jim Resendez, President and CEO of Arizona Heart Hospital. "We are committed to continue providing comprehensive cardiac services that are among the best available at any hospital in the state and the nation."

Highlights of Arizona Heart Hospital's scores in the HealthGrades study include five star ratings for:

- Overall Cardiac Services
- Cardiology Services
- Coronary Bypass Surgery
- Coronary Interventional Procedures
- Treatment of Heart Attack
- Treatment of Heart Failure
- Carotid Surgery

"These accolades are a testament to the talents and dedication of our cardiologists and cardiothoracic/vascular surgeons" said Resendez. "And the physicians affiliated with Arizona Heart

Hospital could not achieve such success without the first-rate care provided by our team of nurses and professional and technical staff.”

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.

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.

###