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West Jefferson Medical Center is Recognized for Implementing Quality Heart Failure Care

(MARRERO, May 2012) — West Jefferson Medical Center (WJMC) has received the 2012 Get With The Guidelines®-Heart Failure Gold Plus Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. The “Gold” level recognition signifies that WJMC has reached an aggressive goal of treating heart failure patients with 85 percent or higher compliance for 24 consecutive months with the core standard levels of care as outlined by the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology guidelines for heart failure patients. **The “Plus” level recognition signifies that WJMC achieved 75 percent or higher for 12 consecutive months in 4 of the quality level measures.**

Get With the Guidelines is a quality improvement initiative that provides hospital staff with tools that follow proven evidence-based guidelines and procedures in caring for heart failure patients to improve overall care and prevent future hospitalizations.

Under Get With the Guidelines-Heart Failure, heart failure patients are started on aggressive risk reduction therapies such as cholesterol-lowering drugs, beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors, aspirin, diuretics and anticoagulants while in the hospital. Eligible patients are identified for advanced therapies proven to improve outcomes in patients with Heart Failure.

Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure helps WJMC's staff develop and implement acute and secondary prevention guideline processes. The program includes quality-improvement tools such as care maps, discharge protocols, and standing orders. This quick and efficient use of guideline tools enables WJMC to improve the quality of care it provides heart failure patients, save lives and ultimately, reduce healthcare costs by lowering the recurrence of hospitalizations.

“West Jeff is dedicated to making our care for heart failure patients among the best in the country. We will continue in our efforts and build off the success of this award by continued implementation of the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines–Heart Failure program that allowed us to accomplish this goal,” said Christy Kareokowsky, WJMC’s Cardiac Line Service Administrator.