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LIFECARE HOSPITALS IN DALLAS AND PLANO RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR QUALITY RESPIRATORY CARE QUALITY

April 13, 2009 (DALLAS) – LifeCare Hospitals facilities in Dallas and Plano have earned Quality Respiratory Care Recognition (QRCR) from a national program that helps patients and families make informed decisions regarding the quality of respiratory care services provided by hospitals. LifeCare Hospitals of Plano is being recognized for the second year in a row, while LifeCare Hospitals of Dallas is receiving recognition for the first year. The QRCR award is given to fewer than 15 percent of hospitals in the United States.

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) began the recognition program in 2003 in an effort to help consumers identify those facilities using qualified respiratory therapists and industry best practices to provide respiratory care. To earn the QRCR designation, hospitals must adhere to strict safety and quality standards, including:

- All respiratory therapists employed by the hospital to deliver bedside respiratory care services are either legally recognized by the state as competent to do so or hold the certified respiratory therapist or registered respiratory therapist credential.
- Respiratory therapists are available 24 hours a day.
- A doctor of medicine or osteopathy is designated as medical director of respiratory care services.

Respiratory therapists are specially trained healthcare professionals who work under physicians' orders to provide a wide range of breathing treatments and other services to people with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis, lung cancer, AIDS and other lung or lung-related conditions.

Complementing a highly trained and skilled respiratory therapy staff, LifeCare Hospitals utilize specialized equipment and respiratory care protocols, and are able to perform both transbronchial biopsies and cryoablation on-site.

LifeCare Hospitals specialize in the treatment of medically complex patients who require extended hospitalization. Many of our patients are transferred to our hospital after a stay in an intensive care unit and have often experienced multiple system failures and slow response to traditional medical treatments. To learn more about our facilities visit us on the Web at www.lifecare-hospitals.com.