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## **Coral Gables Hospital Receives Get With The Guidelines Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award**

*Award demonstrates Coral Gables Hospital's commitment to quality care for heart failure patients*

**CORAL GABLES, Fla. (December 2011)** — Coral Gables Hospital has received the Get With The Guidelines<sup>®</sup>-Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association for its excellence in the treatment of patients with heart failure.

This award is given only to hospitals that achieve 85 percent or higher adherence to all Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure Quality Achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month intervals and have achieved 75 percent or higher compliance with four of nine Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure Quality Measures to improve quality of patient care and outcomes.

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 outcomes, prevent future hospitalizations and prolong life.

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 in the hospital. They also receive alcohol/drug use and thyroid management counseling as well as referrals for cardiac rehabilitation before being discharged.

“The Coral Gables Hospital team is to be commended for this commitment to improving the quality of care for their patients,” said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., chair of the Get With The Guidelines National Steering Committee and director of the TeleStroke and Acute Stroke Services at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. “The goal of the American Heart

Association's Get With The Guidelines program is to help healthcare providers implement appropriate evidence-based care and protocols that will reduce disability and death and improve the quality of life for patients. Published scientific studies are providing us with more and more evidence that Get With The Guidelines works. Patients are getting the right care they need when they need it. That's resulting in improved survival."

"Coral Gables Hospital is dedicated to being among the top hospitals nationwide in the care of heart failure patients and implementing the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure program is helping us accomplish this goal by making it easier for our professionals to improve the long-term outcome for our patients," said Jay Miranda, chief executive officer, Coral Gables Hospital.

Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure helps Coral Gables Hospital's staff develop and implement acute and secondary prevention guideline processes. The program provides hospitals with a web-based patient management tool, decision support, robust registry, real-time benchmarking capabilities and other performance improvement methodologies toward the goal of enhancing patient outcomes and saving lives.

This high-tech, evidence-based approach enables Coral Gables Hospital to improve the quality of care it provides heart failure patients, save lives and ultimately, reduce healthcare costs by avoiding re-hospitalization.

According to the American Heart Association, about 5.7 million people suffer from heart failure. Statistics also show that, each year, 670,000 new cases are diagnosed and more than 277,000 people will die of heart failure.

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### **About Coral Gables Hospital**

Coral Gables Hospital is a 245-bed acute care hospital located at 3100 Douglas Road in the heart of historic Coral Gables. The community-based hospital serves South Dade County, Latin America and the Caribbean. Coral Gables Hospital offers a broad range of services, from primary care to surgery and specialty programs- including: orthopedics, urology, comprehensive diagnostics services, emergency, outpatient rehabilitation and more. In 2011, Coral Gables Hospital received the American Heart Association "Get With The Guidelines" Heart Failure Gold Plus Award. Coral Gables Hospital has also earned CIGNA Quality Designations for Laparoscopic Gall Bladder Removal, Total Hip Replacement and Total Abdominal Hysterectomy. Coral Gables Hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency. Coral Gables Hospital recently earned 'Top Performer on Key Quality Measures' recognition from The Joint Commission, indicating the hospital is one of only 405 U.S. hospitals and critical access hospitals earning the distinction of top performer on key quality measures for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance.

To learn more about Coral Gables Hospital, visit [www.coralgableshospital.com](http://www.coralgableshospital.com).

**About Get With The Guidelines**

Get With The Guidelines<sup>®</sup> is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's hospital-based quality improvement program that empowers healthcare teams to save lives and reduce healthcare costs by helping hospitals follow evidence-based guidelines and recommendations. For more information, visit [heart.org/quality](http://heart.org/quality).