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Coral Gables Hospital receives American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines Heart Failure and Coronary Artery Disease Gold Quality Achievement Awards

MIAMI- February 2010 — Coral Gables Hospital has received the Get With The Guidelines (GWTG)[®] –Heart Failure (HF) and Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) Gold Quality Achievement Awards from the American Heart Association. The GWTG-HF recognition signifies that Coral Gables Hospital has reached an aggressive goal of treating heart failure patients with 85 percent compliance for at least 24 months to core standard levels of care as outlined by the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology secondary prevention guidelines for heart failure patients. For GWTG-CAD, the hospital demonstrated for 24 consecutive months that at least 85 percent of its eligible coronary patients (without contraindications) are discharged following the American Heart Association's recommended treatment guidelines.

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 prevent future hospitalizations.

Under GWTG–HF and CAD, 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. They also receive alcohol/drug use, thyroid management, and smoking cessation/weight management counseling and referrals for cardiac rehabilitation before being discharged.

“The full implementation of national heart failure guideline recommended care is a critical step in preventing recurrent hospitalizations and prolonging the lives of heart failure 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, Mass. “The goal of the American Heart Association's Get With The

Guidelines program is to help hospitals like Coral Gables Hospital implement appropriate evidence-based care and protocols that will reduce disability and the number of deaths in these 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 making our care for heart failure patients among the best in the country and implementing the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines–Heart Failure and Coronary Artery Disease programs will help us accomplish this goal by making it easier for our professionals to improve the long-term outcome for these patients,” said Jay Miranda, CEO, Coral Gables Hospital.

GWTG–CAD and HF programs help hospitals increase the use of and adherence to the association’s secondary prevention guidelines for coronary artery disease. The programs include quality-improvement measures such as care maps, discharge protocols, standing orders and measurement tools. This quick and efficient use of guideline tools will enable Coral Gables Hospital to improve the quality of care it provides heart failure and coronary artery disease patients, save lives and ultimately, reduce healthcare costs by lowering the recurrence of heart attacks.

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.

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. A recipient of the American Heart Association “Get With The Guidelines” 2010 Heart Failure Gold Award; American Heart Association “Get With The Guidelines” 2010 Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) Silver Award; American Heart Association “Get With The Guidelines” 2010 Stroke Participating Hospital; American Heart Association “Get with the Guidelines” 2009 Heart Failure Silver Award. CIGNA Quality Designations for Laparoscopic Gall Bladder Removal, Total Hip Replacement & 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. To learn more about Coral Gables Hospital, visit www.coralgableshospital.com.

About Get With The Guidelines

Get With The Guidelines® 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

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