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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTH SUBURBAN MEDICAL CENTER EARNS ‘TOP PERFORMER ON KEY QUALITY MEASURES’ RECOGNITION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

DENVER – Sept. 14, 2011 –North Suburban Medical Center today was named one of the nation’s top performers on key quality measures by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in America. North Suburban was recognized by The Joint Commission based on reported data about evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to improve care for certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia.

North Suburban is one of 405 U.S. hospitals and only five hospitals in Colorado earning the distinction of top performer on key quality measures for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance. Inclusion on the list is based on an aggregation of accountability measure data reported to The Joint Commission during the previous calendar year. This year’s first recognition program is based on data that were reported for 2010.

“At North Suburban Medical Center, we believe that safety and quality care are the keystones of our work,” said Jennifer Alderfer, CEO of North Suburban Medical Center. “Because of that value, we are committed to accreditation and to positive patient outcomes through evidence-based care processes. We are proud to be honored by The Joint Commission for our quality efforts.”

To be recognized as a top performer on key quality measures, North Suburban met specific 95 percent performance thresholds on data reported to The Joint Commission. This means that when opportunities arise to provide evidence-based practices, North Suburban did so for at least 95 percent of the time. Examples of evidence-based practices include giving aspirin before and after the arrival of heart attack patients and giving antibiotics before surgery.

North Suburban was recognized for achieving two thresholds: heart attack and pneumonia. Two other HealthONE hospitals – Rose Medical Center and Swedish Medical Center – were also recognized by The Joint Commission.

“Today, the public expects transparency in the reporting of performance at the hospitals where they receive care, and The Joint Commission is shining a light on the top performing hospitals such as North Suburban Medical Center that have achieved excellence on a number of vital measures of quality care,” said Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, president of The Joint Commission.

In addition to being included in today's release of The Joint Commission's "*Improving America's Hospitals*" annual report, the HealthONE hospitals will be recognized on The Joint Commission's Quality Check website (www.qualitycheck.org).

About North Suburban Medical Center

HealthONE-North Suburban Medical Center is a 157-bed licensed hospital with two adjoining medical office buildings, 550 physicians on staff, a Musculoskeletal Surgery Center, Diagnostic Sleep Disorders Center and Center for Weight Loss Surgery. Located in Thornton, CO, just one block east of I-25, North Suburban offers a wide range of women's services, critical care, emergency medical services and surgical services. North Suburban has also been recognized for cardiovascular medicine including a full range of diagnostic procedures and treatments for patients with heart and vascular diseases and is affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children. For more information, visit www.NorthSuburban.com.

About HealthONE

HealthONE is the largest healthcare system in the metro Denver area with 8,700 employees and 3,000 affiliated physicians. Named Colorado's "Best Company for Working Families (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007)", the health system was created in 1995 as a 50/50 joint venture between non-profit The Colorado Health Foundation (formerly HealthONE Alliance), Colorado's second largest charitable foundation, and various affiliates of HCA.

HealthONE includes: The Medical Center of Aurora and Centennial Medical Plaza; North Suburban Medical Center; Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center and Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children; Rose Medical Center; Sky Ridge Medical Center; Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital; Swedish Medical Center and Swedish Southwest ER; 13 ambulatory surgical centers; more than 30 occupational medicine/rehabilitation, Broncos Sports Medicine, specialty, and outpatient diagnostic imaging clinics; and AirLife, which provides critical care air and ground transportation for an eight-state region. For more information, go to www.HealthONECares.com.

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