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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **LRMC Receives Award from American College of Cardiology**

Lakeland Regional Medical Center has received the 2009 ACTION Registry-GWTG (Get With the Guidelines) Gold Performance Achievement Award from the American College of Cardiology.

The award recognizes LRMC's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients and signifies that LRMC has reached an aggressive goal of treating coronary artery disease patients with 85 percent compliance to core standard levels of care as outlined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association.

"Lakeland Regional Medical Center is committed to providing exceptional healthcare. More than 40 years ago, LRMC was the first hospital in the area to perform open heart surgery, and this recognition is proof that we continue to provide excellent and aggressive cardiac care using evidence-based practices. We are proud of the work our heart center has done over the years, and are extremely honored to accept this recognition in honor of the doctors, nurses, and other professionals who work hard every day to fulfill our mission," said Ed Sammer, MD, Chief Medical Officer.

LRMC is one of only 121 hospitals nationwide to receive this award. To receive the award, Lakeland Regional consistently followed the treatment guidelines for 24 months. These include aggressive use of medications like cholesterol-lowering drugs, beta blockers, ACE inhibitors, aspirin and anticoagulants.

Created by the merger of the American College of Cardiology Foundation's NCDR ACTION Registry and the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines-CAD program, ACTION Registry-GWTG combines the best of both programs into a single, unified national registry. With the collective strengths of these two programs, ACTION Registry-GWTG empowers health care provider teams to consistently treat heart attack patient according to the most current, science-based guidelines; and establishes a national standard for understanding and improving the quality, safety, and outcomes of care provided for patients with coronary artery disease, specifically high-risk STEMI and NSTEMI patients.

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