



**HealthGrades Contact**

Scott Shapiro  
(720) 963-6584  
sshapiro@healthgrades.com

**Valley Medical Center Contact**

Dana Vander Houwen  
(425) 228-3440 x 3341  
Dana\_vander\_houwen@valleymed.org

**Study: Valley Medical Center Patient Outcomes Superior**  
*Clinical outcomes rank Valley Medical Center among the top 5 percent for Orthopedics, HealthGrades study finds.*

**Renton, WA** (October 15, 2007) -- The quality of hospital-based care in America is improving, but the gap between top-performing and poor-performing hospitals persists according to a study released today by HealthGrades, which identifies Valley Medical Center as being ranked among the top 5 percent nationally for Orthopedics five years in a row and Joint Replacements two years in a row. HealthGrades is the nation's leading independent healthcare ratings company.

The study, which documents a significant variation in care quality between the highest-performing hospitals and all others, also found that if all hospitals performed at the level of hospitals rated with five stars by HealthGrades, 266,604 Medicare lives could have potentially been saved over the three years studied.

“Our research shows that while the overall quality of hospital care in America is improving, the gap between the best-performing hospitals and the worst persists,” said Dr. Samantha Collier, HealthGrades’ chief medical officer and author of the study. “This persistent gap makes it imperative that anyone planning to be admitted to a hospital do their homework and seek out highly rated facilities.”

According to *The Tenth Annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study*, Valley Medical Center is also recognized in the following areas:

- Recipient of the HealthGrades Orthopedic Care Excellence Award™ - Four Years in a Row (2005 - 2008)
- Recipient of the HealthGrades Joint Surgery Excellence Award™ - Two Years in a Row (2007, 2008)
- Best Rated in the Seattle Area for Joint Replacement Surgery
- Best Rated in the Seattle Area for Overall Orthopedic Services
- Five-Star Rated for Overall Orthopedic Services – Five Years in a Row (2004 - 2008)
- Five-Star Rated for Joint Replacement Surgery – Five Years in a Row (2004 - 2008)
- Five-Star Rated for Back and Neck Surgery (without Fusion) – Five Years in a Row (2004 - 2008)

- Five-Star Rated for Total Knee Replacement – Five Years in a Row (2004 - 2008)
- Five-Star Rated for Hip Fracture Repair – Five Years in a Row (2004 - 2008)
- Five-Star Rated for Spinal Surgery – Three Years in a Row (2006 - 2008)

“We are proud that Valley Medical Center has been recognized by HealthGrades once again for the excellent healthcare we deliver to our community,” said Rich Roodman, CEO of Valley Medical Center. “These ratings continue to show that Valley Medical Center is one of the best places in the region to visit for orthopedic services.”

“The care I received from Dr. Barrett at the Joint Center at Valley Medical Center was excellent,” said Cresyln King, Sammamish resident and recipient of two hip replacements. “He gave me my life back and enabled me to walk without pain and exercise again.”

*The Tenth Annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study* identifies key trends in the quality of care provided by approximately 5,000 hospitals nationwide. HealthGrades researchers analyzed Medicare discharges from every U.S. hospital between 2004 and 2006. Risk-adjusted mortality and complication rates were calculated and hospitals were assigned a 1-star (poor), 3-star (as expected), or 5-star (best) quality rating for 28 diagnoses and procedures from heart failure to hip replacement to pneumonia. Individual hospital quality results from this study are available at [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com).

Among the study’s key findings:

- Gaps persist between the “best” and the “worst” hospitals across all procedures and conditions studied. Five-star rated hospitals had significantly lower risk-adjusted mortality across all three years studied.
- Across all procedures and conditions studied, there was an approximate 71 percent lower chance of dying in a 5-star rated hospital compared to a 1-star rated hospital.
- Across all procedures and conditions studied, there was an approximate 52 percent lower chance of dying in a 5-star rated hospital compared to the U.S. hospital average.

The 2008 HealthGrades ratings for all hospitals nationwide are available, free of charge, on the organization’s award-winning consumer Web site, located at [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com). More than three million individuals and employees of some of the nation’s largest employers and health plans visit HealthGrades each month to access quality information about hospitals, nursing homes and physicians. HealthGrades also provides consumers and payers with detailed assessments of hospitals’ patient-safety outcomes, based on indicators developed by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

#### *About Valley Medical Center*

**Valley Medical Center**, the state’s first public district hospital, is the largest nonprofit healthcare provider between Seattle and Tacoma, serving over 400,000 residents. VMC also operates a network of 11 primary care and specialty clinics throughout Southeast King County. VMC in Renton, WA., offers medical, surgical and 24-hour emergency care as a Level III trauma center. In addition, VMC is a regional resource with recognized medical specialties in Birth, Sleep, Joint, and Stroke care and provides specialized treatment in cardiology, oncology, high-risk obstetrics, orthopedics, neonatal and neurology. VMC has been recognized by HealthGrades, the nation’s leading healthcare rating company, as #1 in Washington for Joint Replacement and Bariatrics Surgery, and for Overall Orthopedics. In addition, HealthGrades has awarded VMC with 2007 Excellence Awards in Orthopedic Surgery, Joint Surgery and Critical Care. For more information, visit [www.valleymed.org](http://www.valleymed.org)