



# Marian Medical Center

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Marian Recognized Among Top Five Percent Hospitals in Nation for Patient Safety**

*Marian Medical Center earns distinguished Patient Safety Excellence Award™*

**SANTA MARIA, CA – (April 1, 2010)** A recent patient safety study of American hospitals found Marian Medical Center to be among the **top five percent in the nation**. The study, conducted by HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings organization, named Marian as one of 238 hospitals nationwide and one of only 15 hospitals in the state of California to receive the 2010 HealthGrades Patient Safety Excellence Award.

According to the HealthGrades Study, patients at hospitals receiving the 2010 HealthGrades Patient Safety Excellence Award™ are 43% less likely to experience a medical error, on average, compared to poorly performing hospitals. If all hospitals performed at the level of Patient Safety Excellence Award™ hospitals, approximately 218,572 patient safety events and 22,590 deaths could have potentially been avoided and \$2.1 billion could have been saved between 2006 and 2008.

“On behalf of HealthGrades I’d like to congratulate Marian Medical Center for outperforming the national benchmarks in patient safety that recognizes them among the best in the nation,” said Rick May, M.D., a Vice President at HealthGrades and co-author of the study. “Hospitals like Marian Medical Center are setting benchmarks of superior performance that we would like to see other hospitals emulate.”

In the study, 40 million hospitalization records from nearly 5,000 hospitals were analyzed to understand the incidence rates of 15 different patient safety events, from post-operative sepsis to complications from anesthesia, over the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. The study was objectively and independently conducted, using a methodology developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, a federal agency, and with data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In the HealthGrades study, the following patient safety indicators were studied:

- Complications of anesthesia
- Death in low mortality Diagnostic Related Groupings (DRGs)
- Decubitus ulcer (bed sores)
- Death among surgical inpatients with serious treatable complications
- Iatrogenic pneumothorax (collapsed lung)
- Selected infections due to medical care
- Post-operative hip fracture
- Post-operative hemorrhage or hematoma
- Post-operative physiologic and metabolic derangements
- Post-operative respiratory failure
- Post-operative pulmonary embolism or deep vein thrombosis
- Post-operative sepsis
- Post-operative abdominal wound dehiscence
- Accidental puncture or laceration
- Transfusion reaction

For more information about Marian Medical Center's Patient Safety Excellence Award™ please contact Marian Communications at (805) 739-3580. For more information about the HealthGrades and their Patient Safety Excellence Award™ please see the full study on HealthGrades' web site, [www.HealthGrades.com](http://www.HealthGrades.com).

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### **About Marian Medical Center**

Located in Santa Maria, California, Marian Medical Center is a not-for-profit hospital founded by the Sisters of Saint Francis in 1940. Our team of 1,300 employees and more than 260 physicians work daily to extend the mission of providing compassionate, high quality health care services to the Santa Maria Valley and surrounding communities. Marian Medical Center is a member of Catholic Healthcare West, the largest Catholic healthcare system based in the Western United States with 40 hospitals and medical centers in California, Arizona and Nevada. For more information about Marian Medical Center or Catholic Healthcare West, visit our website at [www.marianmedicalcenter.org](http://www.marianmedicalcenter.org).