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Southern Surgical Hospital Receives Platinum Level Louisiana Hospital Quality Award

Slidell, LA...May 12, 2008 – Southern Surgical Hospital has received the **Platinum Level 2007 Louisiana Hospital Quality Award**, presented by Louisiana Health Care Review, Inc. (LHCR), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Louisiana. Southern Surgical Hospital is one of 10 hospitals in the state to receive the 2007 Louisiana Hospital Quality Award at the Platinum Level. The award was announced at the first Louisiana Health Care Quality Summit hosted by LHCR in Baton Rouge in April. With this award, Southern Surgical Hospital has been recognized for improving the quality of health care given to their patients.

The Hospital Quality Award honors Louisiana hospitals that successfully implement quality initiatives directed toward improving patient care in the hospital setting. This is the third year these awards have been presented. The award recognizes those facilities that are actively engaged in improving care in one or more of the following areas:

- Acute Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack)
- Heart Failure
- Pneumonia
- Surgical Care

The clinical topics measured for the awards have been designated as national health care priorities by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Staff members from Southern Surgical Hospital have been working with quality improvement specialists from Louisiana Health Care Review, Inc. (LHCR) to use proven, evidence-based practices to improve care for their patients.

“Louisiana Health Care Review is pleased to recognize hospitals such as Southern Surgical Hospital for achieving measured improvement in patient care. More importantly, we know that utilizing proven standards of care can save lives, and we applaud the work of these hospital teams in their dedication to quality patient care for the people of their community,” said LHCR Chief Executive Officer Gary Curtis. “As the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Louisiana we are committed to working with providers in all health care settings to improve the health and health care of Louisianans.”

“Southern Surgical Hospital is dedicated to continually improving the quality of care to our patients. Each of our team members focuses on carrying out their responsibilities with excellence. This individual effort, combined with team cohesiveness, creates an environment where physicians, patients and guests are served with quality and service excellence,” stated Michael Pisciotta.

To learn more about the LHCR Health Quality Awards, go to www.lhcr.org or visit Southern Surgical Hospital's Web site at www.sshla.com.