

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group Named A California Physician Organization
Top Performer by Integrated Healthcare Association**

Santa Ana, CA-- St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group achieved overall performance in the top 20% in 2008 based on the statewide pay for performance (P4P) program measures by the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA). Top performer awards were presented at the IHA Pay for Performance Stakeholders Meeting in Los Angeles on September 24, 2009, and are based on performance in four measurement domains: clinical quality, patient experience, information technology-enabled systems, and coordinated diabetes care.

“St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group is excited to receive this recognition from IHA,” says Charles Foster, vice president, administrator. “This recognition further illustrates St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group’s commitment to the community we serve in providing compassionate, high-quality healthcare.”

The clinical quality measures are adapted from NCQA’s Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®), the most widely used set of performance measures in health care. The measures include breast, colorectal, and cervical cancer screening, child immunizations and the treatment of diabetes and asthma. Patient experience is evaluated by asking patients about their experiences with their doctors and medical groups.

These questions are based on communication with their physicians and office staff, coordination of care across settings, and their experience in receiving timely service. Finally, physician groups were rated on their investment and adoption of information technology (IT) to create evidence-based, systematic care processes which support effective patient care.

About the Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA)

IHA is a statewide leadership group that promotes quality improvement, accountability, and affordability of healthcare in California. The IHA P4P program is the largest nongovernmental physician incentive program in the U.S. and includes 8 health plans (including Kaiser for reporting only) and over 225 medical organizations representing 35,000 physicians providing care for 10.5 million members. Other IHA programs include: value-based purchasing of medical devices; the measurement and reward of healthcare efficiency; and healthcare affordability. For more information, please visit: www.IHA.org.

About St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group

St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group (SJHMG) provides primary care services for Orange County residents, with focus areas in Family Practice, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. SJHMG has four medical offices located in Orange, Tustin and Santa Ana—each providing all-encompassing patient care services including adult and pediatric urgent care. Now in its 46th year, St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group is affiliated with St. Joseph Hospital of Orange and CHOC Children’s Hospital of Orange County, two of the county’s preeminent hospitals. For more information, please visit www.sjhmg.org.