



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **St. Luke's Boise/Meridian Medical Centers Recognized for Heart Failure Management**

**Boise** — St. Luke's Boise/Meridian Medical Centers have been awarded a Silver Performance Achievement Award by The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With the Guidelines Program.

St. Luke's joins 569 other hospitals featured in a July 28 advertisement in the "America's Best Hospitals" issue of *US News & World Report*.

The awards are given for achievement in coronary artery disease, stroke and/or heart failure treatment. Hospitals are recognized in each category in which they achieve at least 85 percent compliance with the Get With The Guidelines measures.

St. Luke's was recognized for its achievement in heart failure treatment.

Hospitals marking 85 percent compliance for 24 consecutive months are given the Gold Performance Achievement Award, with the Silver Performance Achievement award going to those with 85 percent compliance for 12 consecutive months.

Get With The Guidelines is a hospital-based quality-improvement program designed to ensure that hospitals consistently care for cardiac and stroke patients following the most up-to-date guidelines and recommendations. The program addresses coronary artery disease, heart failure and stroke. Currently more than 1,450 hospitals participate in the program.

"Healthcare providers who use Get With The Guidelines are armed with the latest evidence-based guidelines and immediate access to clinical decision support, using a set of tools that have been shown to improve delivery of evidence-based care," said Dr. Lee Schwamm, national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines steering committee, associate professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School and vice chairman of neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital. "The goal of this initiative is to improve the quality of life and help reduce deaths and disability among patients with heart disease and stroke."

Cy Gearhard, Administrator of the St. Luke's Center for Heart and Vascular Health, said it's an honor to be recognized by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association.

"Get With The Guidelines gives our professionals the tools and reports they need to effectively treat our heart failure patients," she said.

In 1968, heart surgeons at St. Luke's performed Idaho's first open heart surgery. Today, St. Luke's Center for Heart and Vascular Health continues a 41 year tradition with the latest in cardiac and vascular care delivered by the region's top cardiologists, and cardiothoracic and vascular surgeons. St. Luke's has Idaho's only certified Chest Pain Centers, and in 2008, Thomson Reuters named St. Luke's as one of the country's top 100 hospitals for cardiovascular care and patient outcomes.

### **About St. Luke's**

*St. Luke's Boise and Meridian Medical Centers are part of St. Luke's Health System – Idaho's largest and only locally controlled health care system employing for than 7,500 people. With hospitals in Boise, Meridian, Wood River and Twin Falls, St. Luke's provides patients with unmatched care in specialized medical fields including cancer, heart and vascular, obstetrics, women's services and children's health care. To find out more visit [www.stlukesonline.org](http://www.stlukesonline.org).*

### **About Get With The Guidelines**

*Get With The Guidelines<sup>SM</sup> (GWTG) is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's hospital-based quality improvement program that empowers healthcare teams to save lives and reduce healthcare costs by helping hospitals follow evidence-based guidelines and recommendations. For more information, visit [www.americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines](http://www.americanheart.org/getwiththeguidelines).*