

Contact: Francine Bodnar, Media/Special Events Coordinator
Phone: 814-534-9610

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UnitedHealthcare honors Memorial's cardiac and orthopedic programs

Johnstown, PA (January 16, 2008)- Leaders at Memorial Medical Center are excited to announce that the facility has been designated as a **UnitedHealth Premium Cardiac Specialty Center** and a **UnitedHealth Premium Total Replacement Specialty Center** for 2007 through 2009.

This designation means that Memorial has met rigorous quality criteria based on nationally recognized medical standards and expert advice.

In order to be considered for the cardiac award, hospitals must submit outcome data through the American College of Cardiologists (ACC) and/or the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS).

UnitedHealthcare developed the UnitedHealth Premium Specialty Center designation program to give its members information about, and access to, cardiac hospitals meeting rigorous quality and cost efficiency criteria, which is based on detailed information about specialized training, practice capabilities and proficiencies.

“In 2007 alone, Memorial was recognized by HealthGrades, the Pennsylvania Health Care Containment Council and Highmark for its outstanding cardiac surgery outcomes,” says Dr. David Carlson, Chief Medical Officer, Conemaugh Health System. “We can attribute these accolades, along with this latest recognition, to the skill, talent and compassion of our physicians and employees, who work tirelessly to help make Memorial a model cardiac care center.”

In regards to Orthopedics, some of the program areas that are rated include staff experience, program components, clinical outcomes and cost effectiveness.

“This latest recognition is quite an honor,” says Dr. David Carlson, Chief Medical Officer. “We are extremely focused on patient care, clinical outcomes and cost effectiveness, and it is a privilege to be acknowledged by UnitedHealthcare for our achievements in the areas of Orthopedics and Cardiac Services.”

In addition to UnitedHealthcare's designation, HealthGrades recently honored Memorial's Orthopedics program with a five-star rating in the areas of Joint Replacement, Total Knee Replacement and Hip Fracture Repair.

PAGE TWO- UnitedHealth Premium Award

UnitedHealthcare launched the UnitedHealth Premium designation program to help educate engaged health care consumers who are active participants in their health care decision-making.

Sam Ho, MD, executive vice president and chief medical officer at UnitedHealthcare, stated that consumers who require cardiac care need to know that they are getting quality treatment. “Our goal is to enhance the overall quality of care for our customers and enrollees, The UnitedHealth Premium designation signals to all consumers that Memorial Medical Center meets or exceeds nationally recognized standards of care.”