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## TGMC given 'gold,' accreditation awards

By JENNA FARMER

Terrebonne General Medical Center's (TGMC) commitment to quality healthcare can be measured in gold, as the hospital recently received a Gold Level 2009 Louisiana Hospital Quality Award, and has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval.

"We maintain Joint Commission accreditation for our organization because we want to demonstrate our commitment to our patients' safety and quality care," TGMC CEO Phyllis Peoples said in a press release. "We view obtaining Joint Commission accreditation as another step toward achieving excellence."

The Joint Commission, founded in 1951, looks to improve public health care by evaluating health care organizations and encouraging them to provide the safest and highest quality care. It is an independent, not-for-profit organization that certifies more than 17,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States.

"Above all, the national standards are intended to stimulate continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care," said Mark Pelletier, R.N., M.S. and executive director of Hospital Programs, Accreditation and Certification Services, The Joint Commission.

The Joint Commission is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards, according to the Joint Commission website.

"The community should be proud that TGMC is focusing on the most challenging goal - to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels," Pelletier continued in a press release.

In addition to TGMC's accreditation accomplishments, it also received a Gold Level 2009 Louisiana Hospital Quality Award, which was announced at the 2010 Louisiana Medicare Quality Summit and Awards hosted by eQHealth Solutions in Baton Rouge.

Similar to the Joint Commission standards, eQHealth Solutions created the award to recognize Louisiana hospitals that implement quality health care initiatives.

TGMC is one of 78 hospitals in the state to receive the award, according to a press release, and was recognized for improving the quality of health care given to patients in the areas of heart failure, pneumonia and acute myocardial infarction.

"The medical staff and entire health care team of TGMC are dedicated to providing the very best in patient care and our efforts have been enhanced through our quality improvement partnerships with eQHealth Solutions. We are extremely proud to be a recipient of this distinguished award," Peoples said.