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### **NMMC-TUPELO RECEIVES 2011 VHA CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**

TUPELO, Miss. – North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo was the recipient of a 2011 VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence for meeting or exceeding national performance standards for clinical care and improving the patient experience.

VHA, Inc., a national health care network, serves more than 1,350 not-for-profit hospitals and more than 30,000 non-acute health care providers nationwide, supporting their efforts to improve their clinical and economic performance. NMMC was one of 28 VHA member hospitals to receive the 2011 Leadership Awards for Clinical Excellence. The winners were announced recently at the annual VHA Annual Leadership Conference in San Diego.

The VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence is given annually to recognize organizations that achieve top performance on the clinical core measures established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and in the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health Providers and Services (HCAHPS) survey that measure patient satisfaction at hospitals across the country.

“We are very proud of our physicians and staff who have worked diligently to improve care provided to our patients,” said Steve Altmiller, president of NMMC-Tupelo. “This is an ongoing, relentless effort and part of our commitment to give all our best to those we serve.”

“The VHA Leadership Award for Clinical Excellence recognizes hospitals that have worked to provide consistently high levels of clinical care for their patients and that emphasize the importance of improving the patient experience,” said Trent Haywood, M.D., J.D., chief medical officer at VHA. “These award-winning hospitals have clearly demonstrated an organizational commitment to look at the organizational practices, organizational structures and relationships that support performance improvement.”

By recognizing these award-winning institutions, VHA hopes that other hospitals and health systems will apply these leading practices to identify ways to improve patient care and drive clinical excellence within their own organizations.

VHA Inc., based in Irving, Texas, is a national network of not-for-profit health care organizations that work together to drive maximum savings in the supply chain arena, set new levels of clinical performance and identify and implement best practices to improve operational efficiency and clinical outcomes. In 2009, VHA delivered record savings and value of \$1.47 billion to members. Formed in 1977, VHA serves nearly 1,350 not-for-profit hospitals and more than 30,000 non-acute care providers nationwide, coordinating delivery of its programs and services through its 16 regional offices. VHA has been listed as one of the best places to work in health care by *Modern Healthcare* since 2008 and one of the best places to work in IT by *Computer World* since 2007.