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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: **Matt E. Hartzler**, Vice President Strategic Planning & Physician Services
Longmont United Hospital, 303-651-5026(direct) or e-mail mhartzler@luhcares.org

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**LONGMONT UNITED HOSPITAL RECEIVES
CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD
FOR CARDIAC CARE**

Longmont United Hospital's quality awards rank its care among the top 10% nationally

Findings are based on HealthGrades' 11th Annual Hospital Quality in America Study

DATELINE (October 14, 2008) – Longmont United Hospital today announced that it has received the 2009 Cardiac Care Excellence Award™ from HealthGrades, the leading independent healthcare ratings company. This award places Longmont United Hospital's clinical outcomes in the top ten percent nationally for overall cardiac care.

In addition, Longmont United Hospital received 5-star ratings in:

Coronary Bypass Surgery
Treatment of Heart Attack
Treatment of Heart Failure

“Clinical excellence and superior care is an area we strive to maintain at Longmont United Hospital. It is a pleasure and an honor for our community hospital to achieve these distinctions from a nationally recognized authority on healthcare outcomes. The recognition of our clinical excellence further supports the dedication of our staff and the members of our medical staff to changing the caring experience,” said Mitchell C. Carson, Longmont United Hospital's President and CEO.

These findings were included in the eleventh annual *HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study*, which is the most comprehensive study of its kind, analyzing more than 41 million Medicare hospitalization records from 2005 to 2007 at the nation's approximately 5,000 non-federal hospitals. According to the study, if all hospitals performed at the level of five-star rated hospitals, 237,420 Medicare deaths could potentially have been prevented over the three years studied. More than half of those preventable deaths were associated with four conditions: sepsis, pneumonia, heart failure and respiratory failure.

While overall death rates declined from 2005 to 2007, the nation's best-performing hospitals were able to reduce preventable deaths at a much faster rate than poor-performing hospitals, resulting in large state, regional and hospital-to-hospital variations in the quality of patient care, the study found.

Based on the study, HealthGrades today made available its 2009 quality ratings for virtually every hospital in the country at www.healthgrades.com, a Web site designed to help individuals research and compare local healthcare providers.

On its Web site, HealthGrades offers, free to consumers, quality ratings of 27 procedures and treatments for virtually every hospital in the country. The Web site is designed so that consumers can easily compare patient outcomes at their local hospitals for procedures ranging from aortic aneurysm repair to bypass surgery. Each hospital receives a star rating based on its patient outcomes in terms of mortality or

complication rates for each procedure or treatment. Hospitals with outcomes that are above average to a statistically significant degree receive a five-star rating. Hospitals with average outcomes receive a three-star rating, and hospitals with outcomes that are below average receive a one-star rating. Because no two hospitals or their patients' risk profiles are alike, HealthGrades employs extensive risk-adjustment algorithms to ensure that it is making analogous comparisons.

About Longmont United Hospital

Longmont United Hospital is a full service, community hospital with specialty areas in Women's & Children's Services, Cardiology, Comprehensive Surgical Services, Cancer Care, Emergency and Trauma Services, Transitional Care and Acute Medical Services. It offers quality inpatient and outpatient health care services in addition to 24-hour emergency department services. The Emergency Department is a Level III trauma center that has the capacity to treat approximately 45,000 patients each year.

A full spectrum of cardiac care - from diagnosis to open heart surgery - is offered at Longmont United Hospital. In 2006, the hospital began offering Minimally Invasive Ablation, a new treatment for atrial fibrillation. Other services include cardiac catheterization, angioplasty, cardiac stents, pacemakers and defibrillators, stress testing, telemetry, echocardiology, atherectomy, and interventional radiology. There is also a specialized cardiac rehabilitation program, including an on-site fitness facility.

