



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Sturdy Memorial Hospital Earns ‘*Top Performer on Key Quality Measures™ 2011*’
Recognition from The Joint Commission**

ATTLEBORO, MA, September 20, 2012 – Sturdy Memorial Hospital has been named one of the nation’s *Top Performers on Key Quality Measures™* by The Joint Commission, the leading accreditor of health care organizations in America. Sturdy was recognized by The Joint Commission for exemplary performance in using evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to improve care for certain conditions.

Out of 3,376 eligible hospitals submitting accountability measure data to The Joint Commission, Sturdy was one of only 620 hospitals in the U.S. to meet or exceed the target rates of performance for 2011 and earn the distinction of *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures* for attaining and sustaining excellence in accountability measure performance. Specifically, Sturdy was recognized for its achievement on the following measure sets: heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, and surgical care. The ratings are based on an aggregation of accountability measure data reported to The Joint Commission during the 2011 calendar year. The list of *Top Performers* represents 18 percent of accredited hospitals reporting data.

Each of the hospitals that were named as a *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures* met two 95 percent (95/95) performance thresholds on 2011 accountability measure data. Sturdy actually met all four performance thresholds on which it was measured.

First, each hospital achieved performance of 95 percent or above on a single, composite score that includes all the accountability measures for which it reports data to The Joint Commission, including measures that had fewer than 30 eligible cases or patients. Second, each hospital met or exceeded 95 percent performance on every accountability measure for which it reports data to The Joint Commission, excluding any measures with fewer than 30 eligible cases or patients. A 95 percent score means a hospital provided an evidence-based practice 95 times out of 100 opportunities to provide the practice. Each accountability measure represents an evidence-based practice – for example, giving aspirin at arrival for heart attack

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patients, ensuring antibiotics are given prophylactically to surgical patients within one hour prior to surgical incision, and doing blood cultures in the emergency department before administering the first hospital dose of antibiotics for pneumonia patients to help the physicians know which bacteria may have caused the pneumonia so they can determine which antibiotic should be prescribed.

“Providing safe, high-quality care and positive outcomes is enormously important to everyone who works at Sturdy and to our patients. We are proud to be recognized by The Joint Commission as a *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures*,” says Linda Shyavitz, Sturdy Memorial Hospital President and CEO.

In addition to being included in The Joint Commission’s “[Improving America’s Hospitals](#)” [annual report](#), Sturdy will be recognized on The Joint Commission’s Quality Check website (www.qualitycheck.org). The Top Performer program will be featured in the November issue of [The Joint Commission Perspectives](#) and the October issue of [The Joint Commission: The Source](#).

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