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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy Celebrates Two Years “CAUTI-Free”

June 2, 2011...Hornell, NY... St. James Mercy Hospital is proud to announce that due to its efforts to improve quality and patient care standards, the facility has not had a hospital-acquired Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) in two years, since mid-2009.

Urinary tract infections are a common hospital-acquired infection that account for approximately 40% of all hospital-acquired conditions. It is estimated that up to 25% of inpatients have a catheter placed while being cared for in the hospital, and over 50% of them are unnecessary.

“In older patients who do not have a specific medical indication for use, a catheter has been associated with a greater risk of death – four times as great during their hospital stay and twice as great within 90 days after discharge,” said Pat Butray-Frey, Infection Control Director at St. James Mercy.

“That is why we are extremely careful about the decision to use catheters, closely monitor patients who have them, and remove catheters as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary risk. The result is better patient outcomes and few complications overall,” she said. These same high-quality clinical standards are also followed at McAuley Manor, St. James Mercy’s long-term care facility.

Medicare and Medicaid Services view CAUTIs as unacceptable harm resulting from medical care, and hospitals will be at risk for financial losses if CAUTIs occur starting in January 2012. “Aside from patient comfort and overall health outcomes, there is a financial risk to hospitals where CAUTIs occur,” said Ms. Butray-Frey. With more than one million cases of CAUTIs occurring annually, the cost associated with hospital acquired UTIs is estimated at \$450 million.

“Two years without a CAUTI is an outstanding achievement for any hospital,” said Trish Uldrich, Chief Nursing Officer at St. James Mercy. “We thank our clinical and patient support staff for making CAUTIs a top priority and providing the safest, best quality care possible.” To celebrate the achievement, St. James Mercy employees were treated to ice cream sundaes served by managers from Nursing, Infection Control and Quality Assurance.

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Practicing strict sterile procedures reduces the risk of CAUTIs at St. James Mercy Hospital.