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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. James Mercy's Dialysis Unit Achieves "Five Diamond" Patient Safety Rating

December 21, 2011...Hornell, NY...St. James Mercy Hospital's dialysis unit was recently recognized by the End Stage Renal Disease Network of New York for demonstrating best practices in patient safety, achieving the highest level in the Network's "Five-Diamond Approach" patient safety program. St. James Mercy Hospital is only the second dialysis unit in New York State to complete all five diamonds.

The 13-module program was introduced in January 2011 to assist New York State dialysis facilities in improving staff and patient awareness of specific patient safety goals. Sixty-nine of the total 243 dialysis facilities across the state are currently participating, and only six facilities of the 29 in the northern NY region have completed four diamonds or better.

"This is an outstanding achievement for St. James Mercy Hospital, given the majority of facilities in our region scored two diamonds or less," said Joan Lecceardone, Director of SJMH's Dialysis Unit. "Five diamonds is a testament to the highest quality service, and ultimately, reflects better long-term outcomes for patients. We thank Dr. Hariprasad, our nephrologist, as well as the entire dialysis team for their attention to patient safety, and ultimately, for helping to improve our patients' quality of life."

Located at the Mercycare campus in Hornell, St. James Mercy Hospital's Dialysis Unit has been providing life-enhancing services for patients with end-stage kidney failure since 1980. Dialysis replaces a patient's kidney function until a transplant is available, or in most cases, helps the patient lead a reasonably comfortable life for months or years. St. James Mercy can treat up to 30 dialysis patients a day, and also provides training and follow up for dialysis patients who are at home or in the nursing home. For more information visit www.stjamesmercy.org.

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St. James Mercy Hospital's Dialysis unit recently earned a "five diamond" rating for patient safety. Pictured are Dialysis staff Joanne Clark (left), Diane Sherman, Jennifer Oyer, Joan Lecceardone, Susan Bob, and Susan Dunning (seated).