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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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

**July 23, 2013...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. Since inception of the program in 2011, SJMH has achieved five diamonds every year.

The ESRD Network of New York believes it is important for each dialysis facility to incorporate patient safety into their organizational culture. The Five Diamond patient safety program is geared toward helping dialysis facilities better implement patient safety awareness and principles among both staff and patients.

"Five diamonds is an outstanding achievement, and reflects our commitment to providing the highest quality service to patients," said Joan Lecceardone, SJMH Director of Dialysis. "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](http://www.StJamesMercy.org).

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St. James Mercy Hospital's Dialysis unit again earned a "five diamond" rating for patient safety. Pictured are Dialysis staff (L-R) Susan Weber, Susan Dunning, Susan Bob, Joan Lecceardone, Dr. Hariprasad, Jennifer Oyer, Erica Wickham, Joanne Clark. Other staff not pictured Kathy Bedford, Luanne Foy, Gloria Franklin, Terry Hosmer, Patricia Koch, Veronica Oakes, Rissa Poklinkowski, Diane Sherman, Jerry Gath.