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**St. Vincent's Riverside & Southside Receive  
The American Heart Association's  
Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure Gold Quality Achievement Award**

*Jacksonville, FL* (Dec. 20, 2013) – St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside and St. Vincent's Medical Center Southside have once again received the Get With The Guidelines®–Heart Failure Gold Quality Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. The recognition signifies each hospital has reached an aggressive goal of treating heart failure patients according to the guidelines of care recommended by the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology. This year, the honor was only awarded to 238 hospitals in the United States.

The program helps staff members develop and implement acute and secondary prevention guideline processes to improve patient care and outcomes. It also provides hospitals with real-time benchmarking capabilities to track performance.

The quick and efficient use of guideline procedures can improve the quality of care for heart failure patients, save lives and ultimately reduce healthcare costs by lowering the recurrence of heart attacks.

“I am proud of the entire heart failure team at St. Vincent's HealthCare for its efforts to improve the lives of our patients. Our multidisciplinary team involves the patient, caregivers and family across the continuum of care,” said St. Vincent's Cardiologist and Heart Failure Program Director Dr. Steven Nauman. “This award demonstrates our health system's commitment to providing exceptional cardiac care that meets nationally recognized guidelines.”



In addition to following Get With The Guidelines–Heart Failure treatment guidelines, St. Vincent’s offers patients a comprehensive heart failure clinic. It provides education for patients and families to help them manage their disease during their hospitalization and after discharge. Our goal is to provide patients with the tools they need to take control of their condition so they can live long, productive lives.

According to the American Heart Association, about 5.7 million people in the U-S suffer from heart failure. 670,000 new cases are diagnosed each year and more than 277,000 people will die from the disease. Despite those statistics, many heart failure patients lead full, productive lives because they manage their condition through appropriate lifestyle changes and medication.

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***About St. Vincent’s HealthCare***

*St. Vincent’s HealthCare includes: St. Vincent’s Riverside, St. Vincent’s Southside, St. Vincent’s Clay County, St. Catherine Labouré Manor, St. Vincent’s Primary Care, Consolidated Laboratories, St. Vincent’s Ambulance Service, Seton Pharmacies and Consolidated Pharmacies. St. Vincent’s Medical Center was founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1916 to provide health services to the sick and the poor of North Florida. St. Luke’s Hospital, now St. Vincent’s Southside was founded in 1873 by three women who saw the need for medical care in the community. It stands as Florida’s oldest private hospital. St. Vincent’s HealthCare is a member of Ascension Health, the nation’s largest Catholic and nonprofit health system with more than 100,000 associates serving in 70 general acute care hospitals.*

***About Get With The Guidelines***

*Get With The Guidelines<sup>®</sup> is the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s hospital-based quality improvement program that empowers healthcare teams to save lives and reduce healthcare costs by helping hospitals follow evidence-based guidelines and recommendations. For more information, visit [heart.org/quality](http://heart.org/quality).*