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**St. Vincent's Riverside First in the Region to Offer Patients a
Subcutaneous Implantable Defibrillator**

Jacksonville, FL (Feb. 24, 2014) – St. Vincent's Medical Center Riverside is the first hospital in the region to offer the S-ICD[®] System, an implantable defibrillator that sits just under the skin, leaving the heart muscle untouched. The device is designed for patients at risk of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), an abrupt loss of heart function caused by chaotic activity of the heart.

“Sudden Cardiac Arrest can be frightening and life-threatening for patients who go unprotected,” said Cardiologist Dr. Jay Patterson, MD, St. Vincent's Cardiology. “We are thrilled to offer patients in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia this new and improved life-saving technology.”

The S-ICD System constantly monitors a patient's heart, delivering life-saving therapy if sudden cardiac arrest strikes. What makes the S-ICD System different from other implantable cardiac defibrillators is that it sits just under the skin without the need for thin, insulated wires – known as leads – to be placed into the heart itself. This leaves the heart and blood vessels untouched, providing many benefits for patients. Those include less scarring, less chance of infection and a quicker recovery.

“We are proud to offer this advanced therapy to help improve the quality of life for our patients,” said Cardiologist Dr. Timothy Walsh, MD, St. Vincent's Cardiology. “St. Vincent's has always been considered a leader in cardiac care and offering this technology reaffirms our commitment to patients.”

Recent estimates show approximately 850,000 people in the United States are at risk of SCA and need an ICD device, but remain unprotected.

St. Vincent's performed its first S-ICD procedure in late January.

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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.