



**PATERSON, NJ [MARCH 31, 2009]**- St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center in Paterson, NJ, which includes St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, and St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital in Wayne, NJ, have earned Quality Respiratory Care Recognition under a national program aimed at helping patients and families make informed decisions about the quality of respiratory care services available at local hospitals.

"St. Joseph's Healthcare System hospitals have once again distinguished themselves for providing superior quality care. This prestigious recognition from the American Association of Respiratory Care places St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center/St. Joseph's Children's Hospital and St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital among the top 15% of hospitals in the United States," stated William A. McDonald, President and Chief Executive Officer, St. Joseph's Healthcare System.

The Quality Respiratory Care Recognition (QRCR) program was started by the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) in 2003 to help consumers identify those facilities using qualified respiratory therapists to provide quality respiratory care. Hospitals earning the QRCR designation ensure patient safety by agreeing to adhere to a strict set of criteria governing their respiratory care services.

The AARC's QRCR program grew out of growing concerns among health care leaders and the general public regarding the safety and quality of patient services.

According to the AARC, hospitals such as St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center/St. Joseph's Children's Hospital and St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital provide a level of respiratory care consistent with national standards and guidelines, and are to be commended for their commitment to quality care.

Respiratory therapists are specially trained health care professionals who work under physicians' orders to provide a wide range of breathing treatments and other services to people with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, lung cancer, and other lung and lung-related conditions. They also care for premature infants and are key members of the lifesaving response teams charged with handling medical emergencies.