



SPECIALISTS ON CALL™
The Leader in Clinical Telemedicine

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Specialists On Call Helps Florida Hospitals Earn High Marks in HealthGrades Emergency Medicine Study

Emergency Medicine Excellence Award Goes to 7 Top-Performing Florida Hospitals with 24/7 Teleneurology Service

Westlake Village, California – July 14, 2010 – Specialists On Call, Inc. (SOC), the nation's leading private provider of telemedicine services, announced today that seven of their current Florida hospital clients were named recipients of HealthGrades' Emergency Medicine Excellence Award.

The First Annual HealthGrades Emergency Medicine in American Hospitals Study examined more than 5 million Medicare records of patients admitted through the emergency department of 4,907 hospitals from 2006 to 2008 and identified hospitals that performed in the top 5% in the nation in emergency medicine.

The study was based on risk-adjusted mortality outcomes for patients admitted through the emergency department for eleven of the most common life-threatening diagnoses in the Medicare population including stroke. Comparing the group of hospitals in the top 5% with all the others, HealthGrades found that the group had a 39% lower risk-adjusted mortality rate.

Florida had the second highest number of facilities to win the award with 28 top performing hospitals in-state and a quarter of them employ Specialists On Call's teleneurology service. The 7 Florida hospitals are Bethesda Memorial Hospital, Florida Hospital Orlando, Jupiter Medical Center, Ocala Regional Medical Center, Wellington Regional Medical Center, West Marion Hospital and Wuesthoff Medical Center Rockledge.

Carole DiFlorio, the Chief Nursing Officer at Wellington Regional Medical Center commented, "We introduced teleneurology many years ago to our community and it's been a welcome addition to the services we're able to provide. Specialists On Call delivers a methodology by which we can bring the best services to our community in the most timely fashion and immediately help our patients suffering any neurologic emergency. It's a big part of why our Emergency Department has had so much success in receiving, evaluating and treating emergency patients."

Dr. Joe Peterson, the CEO of SOC, added, “Our goal is to help hospitals deliver the best clinical care immediately to the patients who need it most. We deliver on that objective twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week in over 90 hospitals across the country. We’re thrilled to see our teleneurology service impact so many patients and improve healthcare at so many hospitals.”

Specialists On Call provides teleneurology services to more than 100 hospitals in twelve states and has conducted more than 20,000 emergency consultations via telemedicine since the company’s inception. Their reliability and performance has earned them both a leadership position within the telemedicine industry as well as The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval.

About HealthGrades

HealthGrades, Inc., is the leading independent healthcare ratings organization, providing quality ratings, profiles and cost information on the nation’s hospitals, physicians, nursing homes and prescription drugs. Millions of patients and many of the nation’s largest employers, health plans and hospitals rely on HealthGrades’ quality ratings, advisory services and decision-support resources. The HealthGrades Network of Web sites, including HealthGrades.com and WrongDiagnosis.com, is a top-five health property according to ComScore and is the internet’s leading destination for patients choosing providers.

For more information please visit www.healthgrades.com

Specialists On Call

Specialists On Call, Inc. (SOC), is a Joint Commission-accredited organization that is changing emergency medicine. As the leading provider of emergency telemedicine consultations, SOC gives hospitals vital 24/7/365 access to more than 45 board certified, fellowship trained academic specialists, each with a minimum of 10 years experience. With operations on both coasts, SOC provides more than 1,000 emergency consultations per month for hospitals nationwide and hospital systems such as Vanguard Health Systems, HCA, Inc. and Tenet Healthcare Corporation.

For more information please visit www.specialistsoncall.com

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