



LSU HEALTH CARE SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MEDICARE STUDY SAYS LSU HOSPITAL AMONG NATION'S FINEST
LALLIE KEMP MEDICAL CENTER BRINGS GOOD NEWS TO AILING HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

BATON ROUGE, LA (November 28, 2005) – A newly released study of 2004 Medicare data recognizes Lallie Kemp Regional Medical Center as one of the “Top 200 Coding Hospitals in the U.S.”

The report, which surveyed 3,249 American hospitals, also identifies the Louisiana State University facility as one of the top five rural, non-teaching coding hospitals in the country.

“At a time of crisis for the LSU system, it’s a relief to hear state health care recognized nationally for something besides nearing collapse,” said LSU Health Care Services Division Chief Executive Officer Donald Smithburg. “Today is a proud day for everyone at LSU, especially those workers in Independence, Louisiana, who exemplify the system’s high standard of patient care that I hope the entire system will one day again provide.”

Coding was established in 1978 by the federal government as a standardized system for describing specific items and services provided in the delivery of health care. Medicare, Medicaid and other health insurance providers use coding to streamline the processing of insurance claims. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 requires all United States health care facilities use coding.

“Coding is an important but little publicized part of patient care everywhere,” commented Lallie Kemp Medical Center Administrator LeVern Meades, “I am pleased that Lallie Kemp places so highly among its peer institutions and I hope we will be able to continue providing such excellent care.”

The American Health Information Management Association-sponsored study was conducted by HSS, an Ingenix company that works towards streamlining hospital coding, regulatory and reimbursement processes. In addition to identifying the top 200 coding hospitals in the country, HSS recognized the top ten performers among rural non-teaching, urban non-teaching, major teaching and minor teaching health care facilities. AHIMA is a 50,000 member organization dedicated to the effective management of personal health information needed to deliver quality health care to the public.

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The LSU Health Care Services Division hospital and clinic system is the largest provider of health care in Louisiana, with more than 1.2 million patient visits annually to 350 outpatient clinics, and 46,000 admissions to nine hospitals.

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