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VHI's Cardiac Report Allows Consumers to Compare Hospital Quality of Care

~Includes Information on Preventing Heart Disease and Reducing Readmissions~

February is "American Heart Month" and Virginians have reason to celebrate their successes. Rates of mortality and hospitalizations for most kinds of cardiac care have fallen over the last five years, yet heart disease remains a leading cause of death in Virginia.

In an effort to raise awareness of cardiac health and encourage Virginians to help prevent heart disease, **Virginia Health Information (VHI)** publishes a [Cardiac Care Report](#) annually. Valuable to patients and caregivers, VHI's **Cardiac Care Report** can help consumers make better informed health care decisions.

Studies show more experienced hospitals and doctors may have better results for patients. VHI's free, online tool at www.vhi.org/cardiac can be used to see how often hospitals provide cardiac care and to compare rates of mortality and 30-day readmission rates of 85 local hospitals in Virginia. Consumers can find hospitals within a selected distance of their zip code. VHI's **Cardiac Care Report** provides five years of results in the following categories of care:

- ♥ **Medical Cardiology:** Non-surgical therapy for heart disease such as angina, congestive heart failure and heart attacks
- ♥ **Invasive Cardiology:** Surgeries including cardiac catheterization, cardiac pacemaker insertion, balloon angioplasty and placement of cardiac stents
- ♥ **Open Heart Surgery:** Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery and cardiac valve operations

In addition to hospital comparisons on volume of heart patients, mortality and readmission rates, the **Cardiac Care Report** contains a searchable database of physicians, information on recognizing heart attack warning signs and preventing heart disease and hospital readmissions.

Statewide summaries are available which provide detail on hospitalizations for heart care by age, race, payer and gender from 2006 to 2010. "Using this information we can see the impact of reducing heart disease in Virginia," said Michael T. Lundberg, Executive Director of VHI. "For instance, an estimated \$15 million cost savings resulted from a reduction in hospitalization for congestive heart failure." Lundberg also noted mortality rates declined from 3.0% in 2006 to 2.1% in 2010 for medical cardiology patients, another reason to celebrate.

Virginia Health Information (VHI) is the nonprofit organization that businesses, consumers, the Commonwealth of Virginia and health insurance companies come to for health information. VHI publishes reports and consumer guides on health insurance, hospitals, HMOs, nursing facilities, physicians and other topics at www.vhi.org. To find the latest updates on health care data and statistics, find and like VHI on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vahealth.



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