



February 15, 2008

Neil Gifford
Public Relations
Office: (765) 751-2572
Home: (765) 759-8724
Cell: (765) 744-3151
ngifford@chsmail.org

For Immediate Release:

Cardinal Health System continues on elite national list

MUNCIE—For the sixth year in a row Cardinal Health System has been recognized as one of the nation's best.

CHS ranks 87th on the 2008 listing of the nation's Top 100 Integrated Healthcare Networks. The list is compiled by Verispan, a Pennsylvania-based healthcare information company.

"I've always said that this organization was special. This honor shouldn't leave a doubt in anyone's minds that Cardinal Health System is continuously working to provide East Central Indiana residents the best in all aspects of health care," said Kelly Stanley, President and CEO, Cardinal Health System. "What is significant about this ranking in my mind is that it required everyone associated with the organization to make it happen. There are a host of very special physicians and employees who are associated with Cardinal Health System. They are the reason we earned this honor. This is an honor for the Medical Community ...of which Cardinal Health System is pleased to be an integral part.

Physician participation, services and access, integration and sophistication of technology all played a key role in CHS' top 100 ranking.

The medical staff associated with Cardinal Health System, comprised of more than 45 specialties, allows CHS, via Ball Memorial Hospital and Blackford Community Hospital to provide centers of excellence such as Cardiology, Cancer, Diabetes Care and specialized services like Cardinal Access. The hospitals affiliated with CHS offer several advanced services including open heart and robotic surgery, cancer rehabilitation, Perinatal services and state of the art wound care.

Internal programs that improve efficiency also factor into the rankings. CHS is participating in the VHA's Clinical Quality Value Analysis Program where teams within CHS examine all areas and identify where cost savings can be realized by using resources in a more responsible and efficient manner.

A total of 580 non-specialty, local and regional healthcare systems in the United States were included in the survey to determine the top 100 list.

"To have an organization that consistently achieves such a high level of excellence right here in East Central Indiana should make everyone feel more comfortable calling this community home," said John W. Fisher, Chairman, Cardinal Health System Board of Directors.

“This is recognition of the outstanding Medical Community that we associate with Ball Memorial and Blackford Hospitals,” said John Border, Vice Chairman, Cardinal Health System Board of Directors.

The top 100 list is based on a ratings system which evaluates each network’s ability to operate as a unified organization in several categories including: operations, quality, scope of services and efficiency. Criteria changed somewhat this year to require a greater number of services for the networks to demonstrate true comprehensive care. Cardinal Health System was one of two Indiana healthcare systems to make the top 100 rankings.

About Cardinal Health System (CHS)

Cardinal Health System is a regional integrated network providing a full range of health services to the people of East Central Indiana. The major components of the system are Ball Memorial Hospital and Cardinal Health Ventures, which includes Cardinal Health Partners, Midwest HealthStrategies and various joint ventures. Kelly N. Stanley is President and CEO of Cardinal Health System.

About Ball Memorial Hospital (BMH)

Ball Memorial Hospital is the flagship of Cardinal Health System. The hospital serves as a tertiary referral center and teaching hospital for East Central Indiana. Ball Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission and maintains more than one million square feet of facilities. More than 18,000 patients are admitted every year and 150,000 outpatient procedures are completed annually. Brent L. Batman is President of Ball Memorial Hospital.

About Blackford Community Hospital

Blackford Community Hospital is a 15-bed center designated by Medicare as a Critical Access Hospital. Blackford Community Hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission.

###