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2011 Palliative Care State-by-State Report Card Shows Nation Improves but Regional Gaps Remain

New York, NY (Oct. 11, 2011) — According to a "Report Card" published by the Center to Advance Palliative Care, the nation overall gets a "B" grade, up from a "C," when the report was first released in 2008.

The Report Card demonstrates considerable improvement in the growth of palliative care. (Out of a total of 2,489 hospitals nationwide who participated in this survey, about 1,500 provide palliative care services.) This number is expected to grow significantly over the next five years, but barriers continue to exist in three key areas: Workforce, Research and Access.

Key Findings:

The report gives seven states plus the District of Columbia an A: Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. Only three states, Vermont, Montana and New Hampshire, received an A in 2008.

More than half of the fifty states received a grade of B. Seven states improved from a D to a C (Georgia, Kentucky, New Mexico, Texas, South Carolina, Louisiana and Wyoming).

Nevada saw dramatic gains, rising from a D to a B grade. Only two states - Delaware and Mississippi - got an F. Oklahoma, Alabama and Arkansas improved from an F in the last report card to a D in 2011.

For state rankings and recommendations: www.capc.org/reportcard.

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The Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) provides health care professionals with the tools, training, and technical assistance necessary to start and sustain successful palliative care programs in hospitals and other health care settings. CAPC is a national, non-profit organization located at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. www.capc.org, www.getpalliativecare.org