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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPGRADED CREDIT RATINGS INDICATE SOLID OPERATIONS AND STABILITY FOR NORTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM

GAINESVILLE, Ga. – Two of the world's leading credit rating agencies – Fitch Ratings (Fitch)

and S&P Global Ratings (S&P) – recently upgraded Northeast Georgia Health System's ratings

from "A" to "A+" and issued a stable outlook for the organization. Key drivers that influence the

ratings include market position, service area, payor mix, operating risk and flexibility, quality of

management and past financial performance.

"These ratings place Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS) among top performing

non-profit hospitals and health systems across the nation and highlight the work we're doing,

under the governance of our volunteer board members, to remain strong so we can fulfill our

mission of improving the health of our community in all we do," said Matt Hanley, MD,

president and CEO of NGHS.

The Fitch and S&P reports cite NGHS' strategic investments in expanding its locations

and services to increase people's access to care; innovative care like robotic heart surgery and

histotripsy for liver cancer treatment; a focus on employee recruitment and retention through

education, training, and flexible work arrangements; and responsible stewardship of its resources

as reasons for the ratings upgrade and stable outlook.

"The national, state and local healthcare industry is evolving at a rapid pace, and so are

we," said Brian Steines, chief financial officer for NGHS. "We're pleased these national

agencies recognized how our teams are adapting and overcoming challenges by continuously

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improving the care and support we provide our patients – often by finding innovative ways to deliver our services."

Find a doctor, schedule an appointment or get urgent care directly on your phone, computer or tablet at nghs.com.

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ABOUT NORTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM

Since 1951, Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) has been on a mission of improving the health of our community in all we do. With hospitals located in Gainesville, Braselton, Winder, Dahlonega and Demorest, the five NGMC campuses have a total of more than 1,000 beds and more than 1,500 medical staff members representing more than 60 specialties. NGMC is part of Northeast Georgia Health System, a non-profit that cares for more than one million people across more than 19 counties. Learn more at nghs.com.