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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NORTHEAST GEORGIA MEDICAL RECOGNIZED FOR FIRST TIME
AS CARDIAC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

GAINESVILLE, Ga. — An international group now says Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) hospitals provide excellent cardiac care based on a review of facilities and services. DNV awarded NGMC's hospitals, which are part of Northeast Georgia Health System (NGHS), its Cardiac Center of Excellence status following a survey last month.

“This designation should help reassure people that NGMC and Georgia Heart Institute provide the highest levels of care that follow best practices and improve lives,” said Haley Harrison, vice president of Georgia Heart Institute. “Physicians, advanced practitioners, clinical staff and other support teams from departments across the organization work together to provide the best experiences for our patients and their loved ones.”

DNV says its Center of Excellence designations “affirm an organization's excellence in the provision of diagnostic services, surgical services, and therapies related to cardiovascular care.” NGMC's hospitals were recognized for three specific, advanced services: Extracorporeal Life Support (ECMO), Heart Failure and Ventricular Assist Device (VAD).

DNV surveys include visits from qualified surveyors with specific backgrounds, training, and current experiences in the delivery of cardiac services; technical experts with current discipline experience; and incorporate a program data review on an annual basis to validate process improvement outcomes.

To learn more about heart and vascular services available at NGMC hospitals and Georgia Heart Institute, or to schedule an appointment, call 770-534-2020 or go to georgiaheartinstitute.org.

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ABOUT NORTHEAST GEORGIA MEDICAL CENTER

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.

ABOUT GEORGIA HEART INSTITUTE

Georgia Heart Institute is the most forward-thinking heart and vascular program in the state and includes one of the largest cardiology practices in the region, including more than 120 clinicians seeing patients at more than a dozen locations. With a multi-disciplinary team of experts treating nearly every type of heart and vascular disease and participating in leading national research, we're providing advanced care that ensures lasting heart health for generations. Request an appointment and learn more at georgiaheartinstitute.org.