PatientRightsAdvocate.org Presents Mercy Hospital Downtown Bakersfield with Price Transparency Champion Award

Hospital honored for posting all actual prices and "putting patients first"

Today, <u>PatientRightsAdvocate.org</u> (PRA) announced that Mercy Hospital Downtown Bakersfield in Bakersfield, CA, will receive PRA's new *Price Transparency Champion Award*, which recognizes U.S. hospitals and hospital systems that are demonstrating an extraordinary commitment to full price transparency to empower patients to compare prices and lower their costs. See the full release <u>here</u>.

"I congratulate Mercy Hospital Downtown on this distinction and applaud them for being a true champion for Bakersfield's patients and healthcare consumers," said PRA Founder and Chairman Cynthia Fisher. "By fully complying with the <u>federal transparency rules</u>, Mercy Hospital Downtown is leading the way and doing its part to support every patient's right to accurate, upfront prices. We are at the beginning of the great reveal of all pricing data online. When every U.S. hospital matches Mercy Hospital Downtown's transparency, patients and care purchasers will be empowered to compare prices and plans, lower their costs, and protect themselves from overcharges. PRA is proud to salute Mercy Hospital Downtown for having the integrity to post all their prices and for setting an example for all other hospitals in America to follow."

The introduction of the Price Transparency Champion Award comes after last month's release of PRA's <u>fifth Semi-Annual Hospital Price Transparency Compliance Report</u>, which revealed that only 36% of U.S. hospitals reviewed are in full compliance with the federal Hospital Price Transparency Rule, including 55% of hospitals (89 of 162) in California.

Each hospital receiving PRA's Price Transparency Champion Award has distinguished itself in terms of exemplary transparency compliance, in some cases showing a record of significant improvement, and demonstrating a steadfast commitment to putting patients first.

A total of ten hospitals and five hospital systems nationwide were awarded PRA's inaugural Price Transparency Champion Award. They are:

- Baton Rouge General Mid City Baton Rouge, LA
- Grandview Medical Center Birmingham, AL
- Mercy Hospital Downtown Bakersfield Bakersfield, CA
- MetroHealth Medical Center Cleveland, OH
- Pullman Regional Hospital Pullman, WA
- Ridgeview Medical Center Waconia, MN
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick New Brunswick, NJ
- Rush University Medical Center Chicago, IL
- Saint Tammany Parish Hospital Covington, LA
- UW Health University Hospital Madison, WI
- Kaiser Permanente Oakland, CA
- Community Health Systems Franklin, TN
- Universal Health Services King of Prussia, PA

- CommonSpirit Health Chicago, IL
- LifePoint Health Brentwood, TN

About PRA

PatientRightsAdvocate.org (PRA) is a leading national healthcare price transparency organization dedicated to ushering in systemwide transparency through advocacy, testimony, media, legal research, and grassroots campaigns. PRA believes that the availability and visibility of actual, upfront healthcare prices will greatly lower costs for patients and employers through a functional, competitive healthcare marketplace.

<u>Click here</u> to view PRA's "<u>Patient Voices</u>" ad campaign.