

**For Immediate Release**

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**GEORGIA ADVANCED SURGERY CENTER FOR WOMEN  
AGAIN AWARDED RARE, "GOLD SEAL OF APPROVAL®"**

**Cartersville, Ga.; June 17, 2013** – The Georgia Advanced Surgery Center for Women (GASC) proudly announces that it has again earned The Joint Commission's "Gold Seal of Approval®" for accreditation by demonstrating compliance with the organization's national standards for healthcare quality and safety in ambulatory (outpatient) care organizations. The accreditation award recognizes the GASC's dedication to continuous compliance with The Joint Commission's stringent, state-of-the-art healthcare standards.

The GASC underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite survey on April 23, 2013. A team of Joint Commission expert surveyors evaluated the facility's compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management.

"As a patient of the GASC, this accreditation means that your healthcare is not just in good hands, it's in 'gold' hands," says Dr. Malcolm Barfield, GASC co-founder and chief surgeon. "It says that our surgery center and staff comply with the very highest national standards for safety and quality of care, and are committed to continually improving patient care."

The Joint Commission's ambulatory care standards address important functions relating to the care of patients and the management of an ambulatory care organization. The standards are developed in consultation with health care experts, providers, measurement experts and patients.

"Organizations that strive for accreditation in ambulatory care from The Joint Commission are demonstrating the highest commitment to quality and safety to their patients, staff and community," says Michael Kulczycki, executive director, Ambulatory Care Accreditation Program, The Joint Commission. "I commend the GASC for successfully achieving this pinnacle and for its dedication to continually bettering patient care."

Dr. Hugo Ribot, GASC co-founder and medical director, adds, "This gold-seal accreditation is an exceptional honor among freestanding, outpatient facilities like ours – as many are unable to meet its stringent requirements. We are proud to be among the few that do."

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in healthcare. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve healthcare for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating healthcare organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 20,000 healthcare organizations and programs in the U.S., including more than 10,600 hospitals and home-care organizations, and more than 6,600 other healthcare organizations that provide long-term care, behavioral healthcare, laboratory and ambulatory care services. For more information, visit: [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

Opened in May 2010, the GASC is Georgia's first and only fully accredited, outpatient surgical facility for all major and minor gynecological procedures, and among only a few such facilities in the nation awarded special "Center of Excellence" designation. Specializing in highly advanced, laparoscopic and other minimally invasive surgical techniques, the GASC spares women costly hospitalization, unsightly incisions, and lengthy recovery for common female surgeries, including hysterectomy, incontinence treatment, prolapse repair and fertility-promoting procedures. For more information, visit: [www.GA-AdvancedSurgeryCenter.com](http://www.GA-AdvancedSurgeryCenter.com).

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