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### **News Release**

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(For Immediate Release)

### **BATES COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RECOGNIZED BY INGENIX AS ONE OF THE NATION'S TOP 200 HOSPITALS FOR ITS CODING ACCURACY**

Accurate medical coding and billing help contain rising health care costs, which now consume 16 percent of America's gross domestic product.

Butler, MO, October 5, 2006 - Bates County Memorial Hospital today announced that it is ranked among the nation's top 200 hospitals for its coding accuracy, as recognized in the third annual "Top 200 Coding Hospitals in the U.S." report conducted by Ingenix, a leading health information company. Bates County Memorial Hospital was ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the Urban, Non-Teaching Hospital category. The report ranks hospitals by the completeness and accuracy of their medical coding practices that are used to bill Medicare for inpatient medical services.

"We are extremely honored to be listed within the 'Top 200 Coding Hospitals in the U.S.' report," said Doncella Liggins, Director of Health Information Management. "This report recognizes our efforts to engage in medical coding practices that are accurate and compliant with government regulations. I'm proud and fortunate to have an excellent HIM staff and the superb coding team of Durst and Associates, who not only strive for excellence, but are committed in helping our organization do its part to curtail rising health care costs."

The nationwide Ingenix study and analysis of the findings may be viewed at [www.ingenix.com/top\\_200](http://www.ingenix.com/top_200). The report also will be distributed at the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) National Convention, being held October 9-12, 2006 in Denver.

"We congratulate Bates County Memorial Hospital on its ranking in our Top 200 report," said Robert J. Leary and Ingenix vice president. "One of our goals with publishing the Top 200 report is to recognize the hospitals that have achieved optimal balance in terms of revenue and compliance with government coding and payment rules. The hospitals listed in the Top 200 report have attained a level of performance that other hospitals should strive to achieve."

The study was conducted using Ingenix Hospital INSIGHT, a Web-based analytical and benchmarking tool, to analyze newly released 2005 Medicare data. A total of 3,165 hospitals were included in the analysis, and were divided into the following peer groups to facilitate more accurate comparisons:

- Rural, non-teaching hospitals
- Urban, non-teaching hospitals
- Minor teaching hospitals (less than 100 residents and interns per bed)
- Major teaching hospitals (more than 100 residents and interns per bed)

Within each of these four groups, Ingenix used Hospital INSIGHT to identify the 50 hospitals that achieved the best combination of complete and compliant coding. Hospital INSIGHT enables hospitals, integrated delivery networks and health plans to produce comparative performance profiles for any Medicare hospital in the nation. These profiles provide a snapshot of how a hospital is performing in comparison to peer facilities in the areas of coding, compliance, reimbursement, and outcomes.

#### About Ingenix:

Ingenix delivers Intelligence for Health Care. A UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH) company, Ingenix unites the brightest minds to transform organizations into market leaders and improve health care through information and technology. Ingenix serves a diverse customer base within the health care community. Hospital INSIGHT is a registered trademark of Ingenix.

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