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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Five Star! The Laurels of Blanchester Earns Quality Measures Recognition from CMS

Local skilled nursing facility has earned the rating in five consecutive surveys

BLANCHESTER, Ohio – The Laurels of Blanchester, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center operated by Laurel Health Care Company, has been recognized as a five-star performer in *Quality Measures* by the Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in the most recent set of data released through its Five-Star Quality Rating System.

The quality measures rating, which includes data on 17 different physical and clinical measures for skilled nursing facility residents and offers information about how well nursing homes are caring for their guests' physical and clinical needs, is one of three broad categories reviewed within the CMS Five-Star Quality Rating System, a tool that helps consumers select and compare skilled nursing care centers. Facilities receive grades on quality measures, staffing (including registered nurse staffing), health inspections and overall quality on a scale of one to five stars, with the overall quality rating encompassing elements of each category. Nursing homes receiving five stars are considered to offer much above average quality services, while nursing homes with one star are considered to have quality much below average.

"The Laurels of Blanchester is thrilled to be named a five-star facility in quality measures by CMS," administrator Makinna Hare said. "Quality measures is perhaps the most important category on which skilled nursing facilities are measured, as it accounts for how well we are taking care of our guests' needs while they are in our care. Our associates continually show a commitment to pursuing high standards of care and service and we are happy to see that their hard work has been recognized."

The Laurels of Blanchester is a consistent five-star performer in quality measures, meeting the standard in five consecutive surveys. In addition, the facility is regularly graded as a four- or five-star in overall quality by CMS.

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ABOUT LAUREL HEALTH CARE COMPANY

Laurel Health Care Company is a national provider of skilled nursing, rehabilitation, sub-acute and assisted living services. With more than 40 locations in five states – Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, North

Carolina and Virginia – LHCC is dedicated to achieving the highest standards of care and caring for its guests and their families.

ABOUT CMS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is a federal agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that oversees the Medicare program and partners with state governments to administer Medicaid. CMS is also responsible for, among other things, outlining and directing quality standards in long-term care facilities through its survey and certification process.