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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Largo Ambulatory Surgical Center of Largo Receives AAAHC Accreditation

Largo, Florida - October 19, 2009 – The Largo Ambulatory Surgery Center has achieved accreditation from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC/Accreditation Association). Accreditation distinguishes this surgical center from many other outpatient surgical facilities by providing a safe work environment and the highest quality of care to patients.

Status as an accredited organization means The Largo Ambulatory Surgery Center has met nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care, set by the Accreditation Association. More than 4,500 ambulatory health care organizations across the United States are accredited by AAAHC. Not all ambulatory health care organizations seek accreditation; not all undergoing the on-site survey are granted accreditation.

"We believe our patients deserve the best," stated Helen Smith, Administrator of The Largo Ambulatory Surgery Center. "When you see our certificate of accreditation, you will know that the AAAHC, an independent, not-for-profit organization, has closely examined our facility and reviewed our procedures. It means that we as an organization care enough about our patients to strive to deliver the best possible care."

Ambulatory health care organizations seeking accreditation by the AAAHC undergo an extensive self-assessment and on-site survey by the Accreditation Association's expert surveyors – volunteer physicians, nurses and administrators who are actively involved in ambulatory health care. The survey is consultative and educational, presenting best practices to help an organization improve its care and services.

"Going through the process challenged us to find better ways to serve our patients, and it is a constant reminder that our first responsibility is to our patients and the quality of care we provide," said Smith.

AAAHC accreditation is specifically for organizations that provide diagnostic or medical care on an outpatient basis – where an overnight stay would not be required. Among the types of ambulatory health care organizations that can seek AAAHC accreditation are ambulatory and office-based surgery centers, single and multi-specialty group practices, college health centers, dental group practices, community health centers, occupational health centers and managed care organizations.

Built in 2003, **The Largo Ambulatory Surgery Center** is the premier ophthalmology surgery center of Pinellas County. It was designed specifically for the treatment of eye diseases and disorders by the physicians of The Eye Institute of West Florida. Safe, cost effective care is provided by specialists in each field of ophthalmology using the most advanced technology for the best possible result. Patient satisfaction is the cornerstone of their philosophy. Survey responses assure that patients receive personal and friendly care. The address and phone number are 148 13th Street SW in Largo at (727) 450-3030 ([www.eyespecialist.com](http://www.eyespecialist.com)).

**The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care** (AAAHC/Accreditation Association), founded in 1979, is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation with more than 4,500 organizations accredited nationwide. The AAAHC accredits a variety of ambulatory health care organizations, including ambulatory surgery centers, office-based surgery centers, endoscopy centers, college student health centers, and large medical and dental practices. The Accreditation Association serves as an advocate for the provision of high quality health care through the development of nationally recognized standards and through its survey and accreditation programs. AAAHC accreditation is recognized as a symbol of quality by third-party payers, medical organizations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies and the