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**Coliseum Health System encourages blood donation
during National Blood Donor Month**

(Macon, GA) – In recognition of January as National Blood Donor Month, Coliseum Medical Centers and Coliseum Northside Hospital urge middle Georgia residents to consider blood donation. Blood donations tend to drop off during the winter months due to holidays, travel, inclement weather and illness. National Blood Donor Month has been observed in January since 1970 with the goal of increasing blood and platelet donations. Every day in the United States, hospitals and emergency treatment facilities depend on donated blood to save the lives of their patients.

Dr. John Shivdat, Medical Director of Emergency Services at Coliseum Medical Centers, said, “Recently, the American Red Cross issued an emergency call for blood and platelet donors due to a blood shortage. As the area’s leading emergency services provider, we know that the need is great. Coliseum Health System is proud to offer regular blood donation drives throughout the year.”

The next blood drive will be offered at Coliseum Medical Centers, located at 350 Hospital Drive in Macon, on January 31 from 7:00 a.m. to Noon. To sign up to give blood, please visit www.redcrossblood.org.

Know before you go

- To donate, you must be 16 years old or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good general health, and be feeling well.
- When attending a blood drive, take along the names of medications you use.
- The blood type most commonly requested by hospitals is type O, but every type is needed!
- To find a donation center or blood drive near you, visit www.redcrossblood.org, or call your local hospital.

About Coliseum Health System

Owned by HCA Healthcare (HCA), Coliseum Health System is comprised of Coliseum Medical Centers and Coliseum Northside Hospital, two medical/surgical campuses with a total of 413 beds. The hospitals feature an expansive range of state-of-the-art services designed to meet the comprehensive medical needs of central Georgia. Both facilities include a 24-hour emergency room, inpatient and outpatient surgery options, rehabilitation programs, and diagnostic services. In addition, Coliseum Health System’s breadth of care options includes specialty facilities such as the Coliseum Heart Institute, an advanced cardiac center offering all services from non-invasive cardiology to open heart surgery, Coliseum Primary Stroke Center, Coliseum Orthopaedic & Spine Institute, Coliseum Cancer Institute, Coliseum Robotic Institute, Georgia Bariatric Center, Coliseum Rehabilitation Center, and the Family Ties Birthing Center, which includes a level III neonatal nursery. Additionally, the Coliseum Center for Behavioral Health, located at Coliseum Medical Centers, provides treatment to adults with psychiatric and addiction issues through inpatient and outpatient programs, as well as, a specialty program for senior adults. For more information about Coliseum Health System, visit: <http://coliseumhealthsystem.com>

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