



CHRISTIANA CARE HEALTH SYSTEM

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Study Finds Patient Care at Christiana Care Health System Rates Highly

Clinical outcomes place Christiana Care among the best in the nation for several service lines, HealthGrades study finds.

Newark, DE (October 15, 2007) – A HealthGrades study of hospital quality in America finds a gap in quality between the best and poorest-performing hospitals, with Christiana Care identified as being ranked among the best in the nation for cardiac and cardiac surgery, stroke, pulmonary, critical care, vascular and gastrointestinal services.

Patients admitted to the nation's top-performing hospitals, five-star hospitals like Christiana Care, have, on average, a 71 percent lower chance of dying, than those treated at one-star hospitals, across 18 procedures and conditions, according to a study released today by HealthGrades. HealthGrades is the nation's leading independent ratings company.

According to *The Tenth Annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study*, Christiana Care Health System also received the following recognitions:

- Ranked #1 in Delaware for Overall Cardiac, Cardiology and Coronary Interventional Procedures – Five Years in a Row (2004 - 2008)
- Ranked Among the Best in Delaware for Cardiac Surgery – Five Years in a Row (2004 – 2008)
- Ranked #1 in Delaware for Treatment of Stroke – Three Years in a Row (2006 – 2008)
- Recipient of the HealthGrades Pulmonary Care Excellence Award™ - Three Years in a Row (2006 - 2008)
- Ranked Among the Top 5% in the Nation for Overall Pulmonary Services – Two Years in a Row (2007, 2008)

- Ranked Best (#1) in Delaware for Overall Pulmonary Services – Four Years in a Row (2005 - 2008)
- Five-Star Rated for Treatment of Respiratory Failure – Three Years in a Row (2006 - 2008)
- Recipient of the 2008 HealthGrades Gastrointestinal Excellence Award™
- Ranked Among the Top 10% in the Nation for Overall Gastrointestinal Services
- Ranked Best (#1) in Delaware for Gastrointestinal Medical Treatment – Three Years in a Row (2006 - 2008)
- Ranked Best (#1) in Delaware for Overall Gastrointestinal Procedures – Two Years in a Row (2007, 2008)

[Insert quote from Hospital CEO]

“Our research shows that while the overall quality of hospital care in America is improving, the gap between the best-performing hospitals and the worst persists,” said Dr. Samantha Collier, HealthGrades’ chief medical officer and author of the study. “This persistent gap makes it imperative that anyone planning to be admitted to a hospital do their homework and seek out highly rated facilities.”

[Insert optional quote from a person recently treated for a 5-Star rated procedure/diagnosis]

The Tenth Annual HealthGrades Hospital Quality in America Study identifies key trends in the quality of care provided by approximately 5,000 hospitals nationwide. HealthGrades researchers analyzed Medicare discharges from every U.S. hospital between 2004 and 2006. Risk-adjusted mortality and complication rates were calculated and hospitals were assigned a 1-star (poor), 3-star (as expected), or 5-star (best) quality rating for 28 diagnoses and procedures from heart failure to hip replacement to pneumonia. Individual hospital quality results from this study are available at www.healthgrades.com.

Among the study’s key findings:

- Large gaps persist between the “best” and the “worst” hospitals across all procedures and conditions studied. Five-star rated hospitals, such as Christiana Care Health System had significantly lower risk-adjusted mortality across all three years studied.
- Across all procedures and conditions studied, there was an approximate 71 percent lower chance of dying in a 5-star rated hospital compared to a 1-star rated hospital.
- Across all procedures and conditions studied, there was an approximate 52 percent lower chance of dying in a 5-star rated hospital compared to the U.S. hospital average.

The 2008 HealthGrades ratings for all hospitals nationwide are available, free of charge, on the organization’s award-winning consumer Web site, located at www.healthgrades.com. More than three million individuals and employees of some of the nation’s largest employers and health plans visit HealthGrades each month to access

quality information about hospitals, nursing homes and physicians. HealthGrades also provides consumers and payers with detailed assessments of hospitals' patient-safety outcomes, based on indicators developed by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

About Christiana Care Health System

Insert boilerplate information about the hospital.

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