

Immediate Release

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Christiana Care Health System Provides Free Knee Replacements as Part of Operation Walk USA 2015

(WILMINGTON, Del. – Nov. 25, 2015) [Christiana Care Health System](#)'s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery will provide free knee and hip replacements to three local patients Nov. 30 through Dec. 5 as part of Operation Walk USA 2015.

Operation Walk USA 2015 is a collaborative effort between the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and participating hospitals and health systems, including Christiana Care. Through this effort, all aspects of treatment – surgery, hospitalization, and pre-and post-operative care – are provided at no cost to participating patients who cannot afford joint replacement surgery on their own.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to provide expert care so our neighbors can experience more active and productive lives," said Andrew Gelman D.O., the local physician leader for Operation Walk USA. "By alleviating the disabling arthritis in their knees and hips, we give our patients the gift of mobility so they can return to employment and enjoyment of life."

As part of Operation Walk USA 2015, Drew Brady, M.D., Steven Dellose, M.D., and James Rubano, M.D., orthopaedic surgeons at Christiana Care, will perform the surgeries at Christiana Care's Center for Advanced Joint Replacement, which is among the most advanced, comprehensive programs for hip and knee replacement in the country. The center performs more than 2,600 total hip and knee replacements annually, using the latest minimally invasive techniques, with clinical outcomes that are among the best in the nation. Annually, Christiana Care performs about 100 orthopaedic surgeries for patients who cannot afford orthopaedic surgery on their own.

Patients seen through Operation Walk suffer from arthritic disease, which limits the abilities of 52.5 million Americans and is the most common cause of disability in the United States, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The debilitating pain of end-stage hip or knee degenerative disease often makes working, or completing even the simplest of daily tasks, excruciatingly painful or impossible. Hip and knee replacement surgeries are among the most cost-effective and successful of all orthopedic procedures.

Operation Walk USA began in 2010 following the tremendous success of Operation Walk, an international volunteer medical service organization that provides treatment for patients with arthritis and joint conditions throughout the world. To date, nearly 600 patients have received free total joint replacements through Operation Walk USA. As part of Operation Walk USA

2015, an estimated 80 patients nationwide will undergo free hip or knee replacements from 55 volunteer orthopaedic surgeons across the nation.

For more information about Operation Walk USA 2015, visit www.opwalkusa.com.

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care systems, ranking as the 22nd leading hospital in the nation and 12th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. The health system includes The Medical Group of Christiana Care, a network of primary care physicians, medical and surgical specialists as well as home health care, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services and patient/family advisors for core health care services. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services. Christiana Care has an extensive range of outpatient services, and through Christiana Care Quality Partners, Christiana Care works closely with its medical staff to achieve better health, better access to care and lower cost. Christiana Care is home to Delaware's only Level I trauma center, the highest capability center and the only one of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers this highest level of care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/howeare.

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