Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines and Iowa Heart Center have earned the distinguished three-star rating from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for its patient care and outcomes in isolated coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) procedures. The three-star rating, which denotes the highest category of quality, places Mercy and Iowa Heart Center among the elite for heart bypass surgery in the United States and Canada.

The STS star rating system is one of the most sophisticated and highly regarded overall measures of quality in health care, rating the benchmarked outcomes of cardiothoracic surgery programs across the United States and Canada. The star rating is calculated using a combination of quality measures for specific procedures performed by an STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database participant.

“The three-star ranking is the highest possible ranking and indicates a low mortality rate as well as high level performance on a number of other measures, said David Hockmuth, M.D., cardiothoracic surgeon and medical director of cardiothoracic surgery at Mercy and Iowa Heart Center. “It is the result of a long term team commitment on the part of our surgeons, advanced practice clinicians, cardiac anesthesiology nurses and administrators here at Mercy and Iowa Heart Center, and we are all very proud of this achievement.”

For isolated CABG procedures, only 6.5 percent of participants that were scored received a three-star rating. The latest analysis of data for CABG surgery covers a one-year period, from July 2016 to June 2017.

“This rating reinforces to our patients and their families that when they choose Mercy and Iowa Heart Center for their heart-health needs, they’re getting the best possible care,” said Dr. Hockmuth.

The STS National Database was established in 1989 as an initiative for quality improvement and patient safety among cardiothoracic surgeons. The Database includes three components: the Adult Cardiac Surgery Database (ACSD), the Congenital Heart Surgery Database (CHSD), and the General Thoracic Surgery Database (GTSD). The STS ACSD houses approximately 6.3 million surgical records and gathers information from more than 3,700 participating physicians, including surgeons and anesthesiologists from more than 90 percent of groups that perform heart surgery in the US. STS public reporting online enables STS ACSD participants to voluntarily report to each other and the public their heart surgery scores and star ratings.

“The Society of Thoracic Surgeons congratulates STS National Database participants who have received three-star ratings,” said David M. Shahian, MD, Chair of the STS Council on Quality, Research, and Patient Safety. “Participation in the Database and public reporting demonstrates a commitment to quality improvement in health care delivery and helps provide patients and their families with meaningful information to help them make informed decisions about health care.”

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ORTHOPEDIC CARE THAT’S A STEP AHEAD

Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes is now a premier destination for unique orthopedic care in central Iowa. A complete program – including joint replacement surgery and Joint Camp programming – takes place on the newly-renovated orthopedic floor designed specifically with joint replacement in mind. Expansion to a full floor – featuring three operating rooms, a new physical therapy room, larger patient rooms and a dedicated orthopedic surgical team – provides the ability to schedule more surgeries on days and times most convenient for patients and their families.

Mercy’s joint replacement program prides itself on coordinated care provided by a team of orthopedic surgeons, nursing staff, orthopedic educators, care coordinators, therapists, pharmacists and an orthopedic navigator. This comprehensive approach has led to better quality outcomes, shorter lengths of stay, lower readmission rates and more patients returning home after surgery. Patient satisfaction scores have increased as well.

Mercy is also proud to be designated with the following accolades, distinguishing the program as one of the best hospitals nationally for joint replacement.

• Recognized as high-performing in knee and hip replacement by U.S. News & World Report
• Designated as a Blue Distinction Center+ for Knee and Hip Replacement by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa
• Designated as an Institute of Quality Orthopedic Care Facility for Total Joint Replacement by Aetna Insurance

Visit mercy.dm/ortho to learn more about Mercy’s joint replacement program.

SANTA BABIES

The Mercy Women & Infants’ Center newborn nursery adorned babies in Christmas stockings and elf hats this year. All babies born from Dec. 17-25, received a “My First Christmas” stocking and an elf hat made by the nurses in the unit.

Above: Mary Tee Mo models her Christmas stocking. Mary was born on Dec. 17.

Left: Mother/Baby Unit staff helped place babies in stockings for a special media day on Dec. 19. Pictured are: Alyson Stark, Megan Wiebers, Loke Knouse, Kendra Balliff, Kristen Ernstberger, Rhonda Bunn and Jordan Kriegel.

WHAT’S UP?

CHRISTMAS & SOLEMNITY OF MARY SERVICES

So all may have an opportunity to celebrate the Christmas season, Mercy Pastoral Care is offering services on both campuses. Please see below for a complete schedule. All services on central campus can also be viewed on channel 4. Everyone is welcome to take part in celebrating this holy season.

MERCY CENTRAL CAMPUS

• Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
  3:45 p.m.
  Our Lady of Mercy Chapel
• Christmas Day, Dec. 25
  11:30 a.m.
  Our Lady of Mercy Chapel
• Sunday, Dec. 31
  10:30 a.m.
  Our Lady of Mercy Chapel
• Solemnity of Mary, Jan. 1
  11:30 a.m.
  Our Lady of Mercy Chapel

MERCY – WEST LAKES

• Christmas Day, Dec. 25
  11:30 a.m.
  Our Lady of Mercy Chapel
• Solemnity of Mary, Jan. 1
  11:30 a.m.
  Our Lady of Mercy Chapel

CONTACT US

The Bulletin is published weekly for staff and friends of Mercy Medical Center, 1111 6th Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50314-2611

If you are interested in submitting information to be printed in the Bulletin, send it to PR and Marketing or call 515-247-3050.