U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT NAMES MERCY MEDICAL CENTER – DES MOINES A BEST REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines has been recognized as a Best Regional Hospital for 2017-18 by U.S. News & World Report. Mercy ranks third overall in Iowa and is recognized as “high performing” in seven areas: abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, heart bypass surgery, heart failure, colon cancer surgery, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hip replacement, and knee replacement.

The annual Best Hospitals rankings, now in their 28th year, are part of U.S. News’ patient portal, designed to help patients make informed decisions about where to receive care for life-threatening conditions or for common elective procedures.

“We are truly honored to receive this recognition from U.S. News & World Report,” said Mercy Interim President Mike Wegner. “Being designated as a ‘high performing’ organization in seven categories is a validation of the skill and dedication of our Mercy colleagues and physicians. This recognition acknowledges Mercy’s commitment to providing excellent health care and a remarkable experience to everyone we are privileged to serve.”

For the 2017-18 rankings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 medical centers nationwide in 25 specialties, procedures and conditions. In the 16 specialty areas, 152 hospitals were ranked in at least one specialty. In rankings by state and metro area, U.S. News recognized hospitals as high performing across multiple areas of care.

For more information, visit Best Hospitals and use #BestHospitals on Facebook and Twitter.

The following individuals were recognized in July for Living Up and are the sweepstakes prize winners:

- Amy Belloma
- Sarah Cox
- Jill Crawford
- Skylar Courtier
- Lisa Erb
- Rachel Evans
- Rusty Gheer
- Joan Mccleish
- Emily Montgomery
- Mary Pope
- Rebecca Porter
- Megan Ridgely
- Julie Schomer
- Angela White
- Miranda White

Your Mercy colleagues are continuing to receive recognition from their peers for Living Up. Want to see what people are saying? Check out the recognitions at: https://mercydsmliveup.isrewards.com.
STROKE PATIENTS HAVE NEW OPTION FOR TREATMENT

Mercy is proud to be the first in central Iowa to offer mechanical thrombectomy – a new, state-of-the- treatment for acute ischemic stroke patients. This surgical procedure completely removes a blood clot from a person’s brain with a special instrument called a stent retriever.

Here’s how it works:
- A catheter is threaded into an artery in the groin and up through the neck, until it reaches the blood clot causing the stroke.
- Using X-ray guided imaging, a stent retriever is inserted into the catheter.
- The stent reaches past the clot, expands to stretch the walls of the artery so blood can flow and is “retrieved” – or pulled backwards – which removes the clot.

Its counterpart (and more common) treatment is a tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) treatment, which is given through an IV in the arm and works by breaking up the blood clot to improve blood flow to the part of the brain being deprived of blood. tPA needs to be administrated within three hours of having a stroke, while mechanical thrombectomy needs to be performed within six hours of having a stroke and only after a patient receives tPA.

Mechanical thrombectomy is considered as a breakthrough in stroke treatment, as it’s a quicker and safer treatment that results in improved outcomes for stroke patients, by providing them with greater independence and mobility. This procedure significantly reduces stroke-related disability and mortality, allowing Mercy to not only save, but also change patients’ lives for the better.

The first mechanical thrombectomy procedure at Mercy was performed earlier in the year and resulted in a successful outcome. In this case, the stroke patient regained speech and movement just one day following the surgery.

This procedure is led by Dr. Einar Bogason, central Iowa’s only fellowship-trained endovascular neurosurgeon, and a team of multiple specialists, including Dr. Michael Jacoby; Terri Hamm; and staff in the Emergency Department, neurosurgery, neurology, imaging, radiology, rehabilitation and the Neuro Trauma Medical Intensive Care Unit (NTICU).