

Contact:

Bill Schmitt (302) 327-3318 wschmitt@christianacare.org

Christiana Care Health System Named Center of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology

Designation Recognizes Quality, Safety Standards

(WILMINGTON, Del. – Dec. 18) <u>Christiana Care Health System</u> has earned recognition from the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL) and the Surgical Review Corporation (SRC) as an AAGL Center of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology (COEMIG). In addition, two Christiana Care surgeons were named as COEMIG designees.

COEMIG designation requires an extensive review of a hospital's surgical facilities, operations and procedures as well as its staff's education, training and continuous quality improvement efforts. Physicians who earn COEMIG designation must meet stringent criteria based on their individual expertise and experience.

Christians Care surgeons named COEMIG designees are Gretchen Makai, M.D., director of Minimally-Invasive Gynecologic Surgery and Babak Vakili, M.D., director of the Center for Urogynecology and Pelvic Surgery. Three more affiliated surgeons await approval pending educational updates.

COEMIG "recognizes surgeons and facilities that demonstrate an unparalleled commitment and ability to consistently deliver safe, effective, evidence-based care. The program is structured to help minimally invasive gynecologic surgery providers continuously improve care quality and patient safety," according to AAGL.

"Earning this designation signifies our commitment to serve our patients as respectful, expert partners in their health," said Richard Derman, M.D., MPH, the Marie E. Pinizzotto, M.D., Endowed Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Christiana Care. "The COEMIG program fosters quality improvement and participation has focused our team on exceeding clinical benchmarks and guidelines."

Christiana Care offers a wide range of minimally invasive gynecological procedures, including endometriosis surgeries, treatment for uterine fibroids, hysterectomies, pelvic floor and incontinence surgeries.

The AAGL is the leading association promoting minimally invasive gynecologic surgery among surgeons worldwide. The organization's vision is to serve women by advancing the safest and most efficacious diagnostic and therapeutic techniques that provide less invasive treatments for

gynecologic conditions through integration of clinical practice, research, innovation and dialogue.

Surgical Review Corporation (SRC) is an independent, nonprofit organization governed by industry stakeholders and dedicated to advancing the safety, efficacy and efficiency of surgical care worldwide.

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care providers, ranking as the 21st leading hospital in the nation and 11th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Thomas Jefferson Medical College, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services, as well as for its Level-I trauma care and Level-3 neonatal intensive care (both highest capability). Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.

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

####