



**Immediate release
Schmitt**

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Christiana Care ranked among top 5% of hospitals in the country

Christiana Care earns 2004 Distinguished Hospital Award from HealthGrades

Wilmington, DE (Feb. 12) – Christiana Care Health System’s excellent clinical performance among a wide range of health care services ranks it among the top 5% of all hospitals in the country, according to HealthGrades, a leading provider of health care quality ratings. Christiana Care earned a 2004 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence from the group.

Best in Delaware and among elite

The 2004 rankings by HealthGrades places Christiana Care among the top in the nation in several areas:

Cardiac services

- Ranked best (#1) in Delaware for overall cardiac services
- Five-star rated in treatment of heart attack
- Five-star rated in treatment of heart failure
- Five-star rated in treatment of atrial fibrillation

Orthopedic services

- Ranked among top 5 percent in the nation for joint replacements
- Ranked among top 10 percent in nation for overall orthopedic services
- Five-star rated for overall orthopedic services
- Five-star rated for total knee replacement

- Five-star rated for total hip replacement
- Five-star rated for back and neck surgery (except spinal fusion)

Stroke services

- Ranked among top 5 percent in nation for stroke services
- Five-star rated for stroke services

Pulmonary services

- Five-star rated in aspiration pneumonia care
- Five-star rated in community acquired pneumonia care

Vascular services

- Five-star rated in carotid endarterectomy

“All of us at Christiana Care take pride in this tremendous accomplishment,” says Robert J. Laskowski, M.D., MBA, Christiana Care’s president and CEO. “We work hard to provide our neighbors with the highest level of care and this helps validate the outstanding efforts of our physicians, nurses and entire staff,” he continues. “What could be better for our patients, physicians, associates and neighbors than to know that a highly regarded, independent source has determined that our health system’s overall clinical quality is at an exceptional level compared to hospitals nationwide?”

High level of performance

HealthGrades analyzes the quality of care at more than 4,700 hospitals across the country every year and publishes ratings based on the performance of each hospital. The group offers the Distinguished Hospital recognition to an elite group of hospitals that achieve notably high levels of performance across a wide array of service lines. This year only 164 hospitals received the recognition.

The Distinguished Hospital Award and quality data are based on information collected between 2000 through 2002 by the federal government’s Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The analysis of actual complication and mortality rates produces a report-card rating of care quality for each facility. By comparing the outcomes of patients against what is expected based on the severity of their condition and other factors, HealthGrades provides an accurate “apples-to-apples” comparison of hospitals.

About Christiana Care

Christiana Care Health System, one of the nation's largest not-for-profit, private teaching health systems, has a 115-year tradition of providing a full range of high-quality health care to Delaware and surrounding communities. Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer, preventive medicine and women's health services, as well as Level-I trauma care and Level-III neonatal intensive care (both highest intensity). Christiana Care operates two hospitals, long-term and transitional care services at our Riverside campus and an extensive range of outpatient and home health services.

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