

Immediate Release

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American College of Surgeons Recognizes Christiana Care for ‘Meritorious’ Surgical Outcomes

(WILMINGTON, Del. – Oct. 7) [Christiana Care Health System](#) has been honored as one of only 52 institutions out of 517 by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Clinical Congress for achieving “Meritorious” outcomes in surgical patient care.

This is the third consecutive year that Christiana Care has been recognized through the organization’s National Surgical Quality Improvement Program – also known as ACS NSQIP – which is the only nationally-validated quality improvement program that measures and enhances the care of surgical patients.

“This recognition is a reflection of our staff’s commitment to advancing the Christiana Care Way so we can provide optimal health and an exceptional experience to our neighbors,” said Dennis R. Witmer, M.D., vice chair of Surgery for Quality and Safety at Christiana Care.

The program measures actual surgical results 30 days after the operation and makes risk adjustments to compensate for differences among patient populations and acuity levels. Participating hospitals are required to track the outcomes of inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures and then analyze their results, which direct patient safety initiatives within the hospital and impact the quality of surgical care.

Christiana Care was honored with ACS NSQIP recognition for its performance in eight clinical areas:

- mortality
- cardiac arrest and heart attack
- pneumonia
- unplanned intubation
- ventilator use for longer than 48 hours
- renal failure
- surgical site infections
- urinary tract infection

Christiana Care manages more than 40,000 surgical procedures each year at both its hospitals – Christiana Hospital and Wilmington Hospital – and at its outpatient surgical centers. Since

Christiana Care began its participation in NSQIP nearly eight years ago, the health system has experienced improvements in patient outcomes that include a reduction in the rates of wound infection, deep vein thrombosis and several other post-operative complications.

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 Christiana Care Medical Group, 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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