



PROVIDENCE HOSPITALS

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**SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS' AWARDS PROVIDENCE HOSPITALS
ITS TOP RATING FOR THE 18TH CONSECUTIVE TIME**

The prestigious rating shows Providence is among the top 15 percent nationally among hospitals performing coronary bypass surgery

Columbia, SC – The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) has awarded its highest overall rating of three stars to Providence Hospitals for the 18th time in a row. This continues Providence's streak of receiving this rating for every six-month reporting period since STS started giving this recognition, starting with 2006 data.

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons developed the comprehensive rating system to evaluate the quality of Coronary Artery Bypass surgery among hospitals across the country, using results from its database which represents 92% of heart surgeries in the United States and more than 1,017 hospitals.

STS grades hospitals on patient outcomes and on use of recommended procedures and medications. The cases analyzed for this rating period involved adult patients (18 or older) who underwent isolated coronary artery bypass grafting at an STS-participating hospital between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

Here's what the three ratings assigned by STS mean:

- One star denotes participant performance that is significantly lower than the STS mean.
- Two stars denote performance that is not statistically different from the mean.
- Three stars recognize performance that is significantly higher than the STS mean, and represents the highest category of quality.

Only 12-15% of participating hospitals received the three-star overall rating.

"Providence Hospital Heart and Vascular Institute has achieved the highest rating from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons for the 18th consecutive time," said John Sutton III, MD, cardiothoracic surgeon and chief of staff at Providence Hospitals. "Our consistency in achieving this benchmark, points to the excellence of our system. I am proud to be a part of this team and excited that we can offer this excellent service to our patients."

Read more about the STS database here: <http://www.sts.org/national-database>.

About Providence Hospitals:

A part of LifePoint Health, Providence Hospitals is the leading provider of cardiovascular and orthopedic services in the Midlands. Providence is composed of two hospitals, thirteen physician practices, a network of rehabilitation centers, two sleep centers, a school of cardiac diagnostics and an accredited chest pain center. In total, Providence employs more than 2,000 dedicated staff. Founded in 1938 by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Providence is known statewide for outstanding clinical quality and compassionate care. The Providence open-heart surgery program has ranked consistently in the top 15 percent of open heart programs for the past six and one-half years. Both the orthopedics and cardiac services have received the South Carolina BlueCross BlueShield Blue Distinction Center designation. For more information, visit www.providencehospitals.com.

About the Society of Thoracic Surgeons:

Founded in 1964, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,000 cardiothoracic surgeons, researchers, and allied health care professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lung, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest. The Society's mission is to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research, and advocacy.

The *Annals of Thoracic Surgery* is the official journal of STS and the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association.

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