



To: Board of Trustees
Sponsors Council
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Health Ministry CEOs

From: Anthony R. Tersigni, Ed.D., FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: April 8, 2009

Subject: 100 Top Hospitals®



I am pleased to share with you the news that four Ascension Health hospitals have been named among the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® for 2008 by Thomson Reuters, a leading provider of healthcare cost and quality information. The hospitals achieving this honor are:

- Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast, Destin, Fla., part of Sacred Heart Health System and now in only its sixth year of operation;
- St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital, part of St. Vincent Health and on the list for the third time;
- Providence Hospital, Southfield, Mich., part of St. John Health, also on the list for the third time; and
- Saint Thomas Hospital, Nashville, Tenn., part of Saint Thomas Health Services, and its eighth time on the list of 100 Top Hospitals.

To conduct the 100 Top Hospitals study, Thomson Reuters researchers evaluated 3,000 short-term, acute care, non-federal hospitals in nine areas: mortality, medical complications, patient safety, average length of stay, expenses, profitability, cash-to-debt ratio, patient satisfaction, and adherence to clinical standards of care.

Two of our honored hospitals – Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast and St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital – also were among 23 winning hospitals recognized for delivering the fastest rate of improvement over a five-year period. These hospitals are the inaugural recipients of the 100 Top Hospitals: Everest Award for National Benchmarks. The Everest Award recognizes hospitals that have achieved excellence in clinical outcomes, patient safety, patient satisfaction, financial performance, and operational efficiency. This marks the first time the 100 Top Hospitals national benchmarks have been integrated with data reflecting long-term performance trends to identify the top-performing hospitals that are improving at the fastest rate.

These achievements reflect the dedication and skills of physicians, clinical and non-clinical associates, leaders and volunteers – who contribute each and every day to providing holistic centered quality care to members of their communities.

As we strive to achieve our Strategic Direction promise of Healthcare That Works, Healthcare That Is Safe, and Healthcare That Leaves No One Behind, for Life, we are grateful for and proud of all of these talented, compassionate and caring individuals. I know you join me in offering them congratulations.