



PROVIDENCE HOSPITALS

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**SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS' AWARDS PROVIDENCE HOSPITALS  
ITS TOP RATING FOR THE 17<sup>TH</sup> 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 17th time in a row. This continues Providence's streak of having received 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. Only 12-15% of participating hospitals received the three-star overall rating.

The cases analyzed for the ratings involved adult patients (18 or older) who underwent coronary artery bypass surgery at an STS-participating hospital between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

One thousand sixty-eight providers contributed to the STS data warehouse for the purposes of this comparison. The society's Adult Cardiac Surgery Database contains active participants from all 50 states and Canada, as well as from Brazil, Israel, Turkey, Jordan and Australia.

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 denotes performance that is not statistically different from the mean.
- Three stars recognizes performance that is significantly higher than the STS mean, and represents the highest category of quality.

Hospitals are graded on patient outcomes, and on use of recommended procedures and medications.

"We are proud to carry on this tradition of excellence in cardiac care," said Dr. E. "Mac" Leppard, one of Providence Hospitals' Cardiovascular and Thoracic surgeons. "The commitment

our team continues to show towards our service and patients is celebrated through each life we've helped to prolong.”

Read more about the survey results at <http://www.sts.org/adult-public-reporting-module>.

**About Providence Hospitals, a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System:**

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 is an accredited chest pain center. In total, Providence employs more than 2,000 dedicated staff.

Founded in 1938 by the Sisters of Charity of Saint 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% 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](http://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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