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**SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS AWARDS PROVIDENCE HEALTH
TOP RATING FOR THE 20TH CONSECUTIVE TIME**

Columbia, SC – The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) has awarded its highest overall rating of three stars to Providence Health for the **20th time in a row**. The prestigious rating places Providence, yet again, among the top 15 percent of the nation’s hospitals performing coronary bypass surgery. This 20th awarding continues Providence’s streak of receiving this rating for **every six-month reporting period since STS started giving this recognition**.

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons developed this comprehensive rating system to evaluate the quality of Coronary Artery Bypass surgery in hospitals across the country, using results from data that represents more than 90% of the cardiothoracic programs in the United States, including more than 5.8 million surgical records.

STS grades hospitals on patient outcomes and on use of recommended procedures and medications. The cases analyzed for this rating involve adult patients (18 or older) who underwent isolated coronary artery bypass grafting. A three-star rating means that the hospital’s results are *significantly* higher than the STS mean. With only 12-15% of participating hospitals receiving a three star rating, this is the highest category of quality awarded by the STS.

“The Providence Heart & Vascular Institute has always been driven by quality,” said Dr. Edward ‘Mac’ Leppard, MD, a Cardiothoracic Surgeon who has been with Providence through all twenty 3- star ratings. “We don’t just want to provide the latest services. We want to provide them with the best outcomes using proven best practice procedures. This award shows us that we are meeting that goal.”

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

About Providence Health:

A part of LifePoint Health, Providence Health is the leading provider of cardiovascular and orthopedic services in the Midlands. Providence is composed of two hospitals, numerous physician practices, several rehabilitation centers, two sleep centers, an imaging and diagnostics lab, a school of cardiac diagnostics and an accredited chest pain center. In total, Providence employs more than 1,800 dedicated staff. Founded in 1938 by the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, Providence is known statewide for outstanding clinical quality and compassionate care. Providence Health was recognized nationally by U.S. News & World Report, tying for second



place as the Best Hospital in South Carolina. In addition, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services awarded Providence Health a 4-star rating, which is the highest rank issued to a Columbia health care entity. Providence has received the South Carolina BlueCross BlueShield Blue Distinction Center designation for orthopedics. For more information, call 800-424-DOCS or visit YourProvidenceHealth.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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