

The Miriam and Newport hospitals named two best regional hospitals by U.S. News & World Report

The two Lifespan hospitals tie for first place in annual ranking of top hospitals

NEWPORT AND PROVIDENCE – Newport and The Miriam hospitals have both been recognized as top hospitals for 2015–16 in Rhode Island and the Providence metro area by U.S. News & World Report. The U.S. News Best Hospitals rankings recognize hospitals that excel in treating the most challenging patients.

Newport Hospital was recognized for high performance in the areas of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and heart failure. The Miriam Hospital was noted for its high performance in gastroenterology and GI surgery and geriatrics.

“A Best Hospital has demonstrated expertise in treating the most challenging patients,” says Ben Harder, chief of health analysis at U.S. News. “A hospital that emerged from our analysis as one of the best has much to be proud of.”

For 2015–16, U.S. News analyzed

nearly 5,000 hospitals for adult and pediatric care based on critical criteria and patient outcomes, including excellence in multiple common procedures and conditions. Objective measures such as patient survival and safety data, and adequacy of nurse staffing largely determined the rankings.

Data were produced for U.S. News by research organization RTI International. U.S. News used that data, as well as the new Best Hospitals for Common Care ratings published in May, to produce the state and metro rankings. The rankings are available at <http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals>.

“This special distinction is acknowledgment of the life-saving, life-changing work that our dedicated staff members perform every day,” says Arthur J. Sampson, president of The Miriam Hospital. “Our team of experts is truly dedicated to our patients –

working tirelessly to ensure that we positively impact them and that they have an outstanding experience while under our care. Our patients say they feel they are treated like family – which speaks volumes about our commitment to delivering the best patient-centered care we can.”

Crista F. Durand, president of Newport Hospital, says, “It is often the series of small human exchanges that our patients have with our providers and staff that makes all the difference and gets to the heart of our mission and the higher standard of excellence that we hold ourselves to. Our core principles of empathy, respect and accountability can be found at play in our halls and units day after day, and I feel fortunate to lead a group of such committed, talented people who share the common goal of ensuring patients receive the highest quality care.” ❖

OHIC Adopts Standards to Improve Health Care Delivery and Payment Systems

CRANSTON – In a step aligned with Governor Gina M. Raimondo’s efforts to strengthen the health care system for all Rhode Islanders, Health Insurance Commissioner **KATHLEEN C HITTNER, MD**, today adopted standards to significantly align health care payment methods with efficiency and quality by setting targets for commercial health care payment reform and for continued investments in the primary care patient centered medical home. These standards stem from the Affordability Standards implemented in 2010 by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) to support the agency’s mission of improving the affordability of health insurance for consumers and employers.

Beginning in March 2015, OHIC convened two advisory committees to develop recommended plans to expand the use of health care payment methods that reward efficiency and quality, instead of volume, and to increase the percentage of insurer-contracted primary care practices that are operating as patient-centered medical homes (PCMHs). Upon Commissioner Hittner’s approval, the recommended plans became standards which the Commissioner will enforce with the full power of the Office.

“My Office is committed to holding premiums in check through our annual rate review process and directing insurers toward practices that change the fundamental factors

underlying high medical expense growth rates,” said Commissioner Hittner. “OHIC’s new standards will address those fundamentals by rewarding cost efficiency and quality, instead of volume, and further enhancing primary care’s ability to manage population health and total cost of care.”

The Care Transformation Plan requires insurers to increase the percentage of their primary care network functioning as a PCMH by 5 percentage points for 2016 and sets a target of 80% of Rhode Island primary care clinicians practicing in a PCMH by 2019. The Alternative Payment Methodology Plan establishes payment reform targets for commercial insurers and sets a target for at least 30% of insured medical payments to be made through an alternative payment model by 2016. The payment reform targets will increase the use of payments that emphasize value rather than volume and include efficiency-based global and bundled payment models, as well as payments based on quality performance.

“OHIC’s Affordability Standards support our efforts to make health care more accessible and affordable for all Rhode Islanders,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Elizabeth Roberts. “We will continue to work closely with OHIC and align targets as we build a more innovative health care system.” ❖