

Coastal ranks in top 1 percent nationwide for quality; announces \$15.3M in shared savings program

PROVIDENCE – Coastal Medical has been rated in the top 1 percent for quality nationwide in 2014 among the 333 Medicare Shared Savings Program Accountable Care Organizations (MSSP ACOs), it was announced at a press conference held Oct. 23 at the Providence Hilton.

The group also saved a combined \$15.3 million across their federal and commercial shared savings contracts over the same one-year period.

Coastal Medical has been engaged in shared savings contracts with various payers since the beginning of 2012. Its current partners include Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI, UnitedHealthcare, Tufts Health Plan, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Each contract contains specific quality measures that relate to patient care, and Coastal strives to meet or exceed the target for a total of 143 quality measures, while at the same time attempting to reduce the overall cost of care for their patient population. The MSSP quality score was based on a set of 33 measures specified by CMS.

“These results are astounding and hard won,” said **ALAN KUROSE, MD**, president and CEO. “We’ve learned that providing more clinical services to patients is the best way to reduce the total cost of care for a population of patients. We are spending more to save more. That seems counter-intuitive, but efforts like our Coastal 365 clinic, our diabetes management program, and our team based model of care all help to ensure that we are delivering the right care, in the right place, at the right time. That makes care more cost efficient, and gets better outcomes for patients. That said, there is still much work left for us to do to improve the affordability of care and to ensure a more seamless experience of care for patients across the entire healthcare delivery system here in Rhode Island.”

Speakers also included Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, and Donald M. Berwick, MD, President Emeritus and Senior Fellow, Institute for Healthcare Improvement. ❖



The multi-level, 6,700 square-foot Virginia Lash Heart and Vascular Center at Charlton Memorial Hospital center will host a hybrid OR for structural heart procedures, vascular surgery and endovascular medicine, and a new electrophysiology lab.

Southcoast Health unveils Lash Heart and Vascular Center at Charlton

FALL RIVER, MASS. — Southcoast® Health unveiled the Harold and Virginia Lash Heart and Vascular Center at Charlton Memorial Hospital on October 22. The new venue will house Southcoast Health’s expanding Cardiovascular Services, including a state-of-the-art hybrid operating room and new electrophysiology lab.

The hybrid OR is a cardiovascular surgical theatre equipped with advanced medical imaging devices to enable minimally-invasive surgery while bringing together doctors of different disciplines in the same operating room. The hybrid OR will support Southcoast Health’s structural heart procedures, vascular surgery and endovascular medicine.

The new electrophysiology lab will be dedicated exclusively to performing more advanced procedures, such as cryo-ablation and convergent hybrid ablation for patients with atrial fibrillation. Southcoast is also currently one of only three hospitals in New England implanting Watchman, a device that reduces stroke in AFib patients and allows them to discontinue use of blood thinners. According to the CDC, an estimated 2.7 to 6.1 million people in the United States have AFib. In 2012, Southcoast discharged more than 700 atrial fibrillation cases, the second highest number of all the state’s hospital systems.

“As we look to the future, and continue to strive for excellence, the Harold and Virginia Lash Heart and Vascular Center will always be the place where our community will find the latest and best in cardiovascular care – the care our patients deserve, right here, close to home,” said **DR. MARGARET FERRELL**, Physician-in-Chief of Cardiovascular Services at Southcoast Health.

The Center will cost approximately \$14 million to complete. Southcoast Health is currently conducting a major capital campaign in support of the new facility. The construction was made possible in large part by a donation from the Harold and Virginia Lash Trust and other major commitments from the Auxiliary of Charlton Memorial Hospital, BayCoast Bank, Anesthesia Associates of Massachusetts, BankFive and the Oliver S. and Jennie R. Donaldson Charitable Trust. ❖