

# Christiana Care honored for surgical outcomes among sickest patients

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Nov 30, 2018 at 2:00 PM

The American College of Surgeons has recognized Christiana Care Health System in Wilmington for surgical excellence in caring for its sickest patients and named it one of 66 hospitals in the top 10 percent of outcomes after surgery.

The ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, or NSQIP, has long tapped the best available surgical data — adjusted for patients' health status before their procedure — to help hospitals analyze their patient outcomes. Now, ACS has added a "High Risk Meritorious List" to help hospitals zero in on outcomes for their sickest patients.

Christiana Care has earned "meritorious" recognition in both categories, meaning patients who undergo surgery in a Christiana Care facility are less likely than average to experience surgical complications or death.

The program tracks the following seven complications within 30 days of surgery: cardiac events, such as heart failure and myocardial infarction; renal failure; surgical site infection; pneumonia; unplanned intubation; urinary tract infection; and ventilator use exceeding 48 hours.

NSQIP uses a systematic sampling protocol to select patients to track, then uses longstanding models to adjust their risk, allowing for apples-to-apples comparisons among low- and high-risk patients.

For the seventh year in a row, Christiana Care has seen above-average outcomes and earned a place in the top 10 percent of hospitals.

"Good outcomes are about excellence inside the operating room and beyond, shaped by the values our people live out every day," said Gerard J. Fulda, M.D., chair of the Department of Surgery and physician leader of the Surgical Services Service Line. "That deep commitment to the lives we touch is what motivates our surgical teams to prepare their neighbors for their operations and our surgeons to follow the best evidence-based practices for their patients to achieve optimal health."

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