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Heart Center at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo Earns Top National Quality Rating For Heart Bypass Surgery

Buffalo, NY. – December 21, 2018: The Heart Center at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo has been awarded a distinguished three-star national quality rating by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for its patient care and outcomes in coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) procedures (heart bypass surgery) for reporting periods January 2017 to July 2018. Only 6.24% of the 1,012 participating providers across the country received a “three-star” rating – the highest award under the STS quality rating system – which places Mercy Hospital among the top hospitals for heart bypass surgery in the United States and Canada.

“It is important to voluntarily share quality data to tell the public how we are doing and to compare ourselves to other similar heart surgery programs on a national scale,” said Dr. Stephen Downing, Chair of Mercy’s Cardiothoracic Surgery Department. “Our three-star rating reflects our dedication to exceeding national standards of excellence as well as our commitment to best serve our patients.”

The STS star rating system is one of the most sophisticated and highly regarded overall measures of quality in health care, rating the benchmarked outcomes of cardiothoracic surgery programs across the United States and Canada. The star rating is calculated using a combination of quality measures for specific procedures performed by an STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database participant*.

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“The STS rating is national validation that our healthcare team and heart surgery program rank among the very best in the country,” said C.J. Urlaub, Mercy Hospital President & CEO. “For patients who need surgery to restore blood flow to the heart caused by a blocked artery, it means that our bypass surgery program meets the highest standards for quality, safety and achieving the best outcomes.”

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About Mercy Hospital:

Mercy Hospital is home to the Catholic Health Heart Center, providing a full range of cardiac care services including heart surgery and the latest minimally invasive cardiac procedures, and serves as a Joint Commission-accredited Comprehensive Stroke Center with physician experts and capabilities to diagnose and treat the most complex stroke cases. The hospital is also home to the Mercy Emergency Center featuring 32 private treatment rooms and a rooftop heliport, as well as the Family BirthPlace featuring a full spectrum of maternity/child services and a neonatal intensive care unit. Mercy also offers a wide array of outpatient, primary care and rehabilitation services at convenient locations throughout the area, including 24/7 emergency care available at the Mercy Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) in Orchard Park. Founded over 100 years ago by the Sisters of Mercy, the hospital is committed to medical excellence with an ongoing mission to reveal the healing love of Jesus to those in need. For more information, visit www.chsbuffalo.org.

About STS

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) is a not-for-profit organization that represents more than 7,600 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.

[*User note: An STS National Database “Participant” is a cardiothoracic surgeon or group of cardiothoracic surgeons who agree to submit case records for analysis and comparison with benchmarking data for quality improvement initiatives. At the option of the surgeon or surgical group, the Participant can include a hospital and/or associated anesthesiologists (ACSD and CHSD).]