



# NCH Cardiac Surgery Program Ranked In The Top 10% in the Nation Again

NCH is thrilled once again to announce that it has earned the highest three-star quality rating by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for its coronary artery bypass surgical program. STS is a worldwide non-profit organization representing surgeons, researchers and allied healthcare professionals who are dedicated to delivering the highest levels of quality care to cardiac surgery patients – and others requiring surgery of the chest.



Dr. Robert Pascotto

The quality rating was awarded based on the most recent collection of data presented to the STS for NCH patients who had open-heart surgery for blocked arteries in 2016.

Robert Pascotto, Jr., MD, FACS, sub-section chief of cardiothoracic surgery, said that NCH has achieved STS three-star status for its coronary bypass surgery program for the past five years. Currently, there are only five other cardiac surgery programs in Florida that have achieved three-star status for coronary bypass surgery.

“Heart disease fatalities are still the leading

cause of death in the United States,” explained Dr. Pascotto. “So, it is wonderful that the residents in Collier County who need heart surgery, live in an area where they can be so well taken care of due to the services at the NCH cardiac surgery program.”

Dr. Pascotto also cited an article published in Consumer Reports magazine entitled, “Why Hospitals Need to Share Surgery Success Data,” (May 2017) that evaluated the nation’s coronary artery bypass surgery programs.

Reporting hospitals by region, the Consumer Reports article ranked NCH as having one of the top 26 coronary artery bypass surgical programs in the southern United States, representing 18 states from Virginia to Texas – and as having one of the top 71 programs in the country.

According to Dr. Pascotto, the STS has the most comprehensive databases of cardiac surgical programs in the country – with 90 percent participation. “The database and rating system exists so that cardiac surgery can have better patient outcomes,” he explained. “This helps hospitals recognize their strengths and

weaknesses and make necessary improvements to provide excellent, cutting edge, ongoing care.”

Dr. Pascotto said that after a bypass surgical patient is discharged, the cardiac surgical team collects several hundred points of data and submits it to STS. The organization then analyzes the complication rate, the mortality rate and other quality metrics. He adds that essentially, institutions must do better every year to maintain three-star status and place in the top 10 percent.

“In essence, we are very focused on providing the best state-of-the-art care to our cardiac surgical patients,” said Dr. Pascotto. “NCH provides a level of care seen only in a very elite group of institutions country-wide – right here in Southwest Florida.”

Dr. Pascotto said the staff understands the importance of teamwork which includes pre-op testing, radiology, nursing, technicians, operating room staff, surgeons, cardiologists, physical therapists, respiratory staff and unit secretaries.



## NCH CARDIAC SERVICES SHINE

- ◆ NCH is in the top 10 percent in the United States for cardiac surgery services.
- ◆ NCH has achieved STS three-star status for its coronary bypass surgery program for the past five years.
- ◆ NCH is currently one of only six cardiac surgery programs in Florida to achieve STS three-star status for its coronary bypass surgery.
- ◆ NCH has one of the top 26 coronary artery bypass surgical programs in the southern United States, representing 18 states from Virginia to Texas (Consumer Reports).
- ◆ NCH is ranked as one of the top 71 coronary artery bypass surgical programs in the United States (Consumer Reports).



For more information about NCH Cardiac Surgical Services, contact the NCH Heart Institute at (239) 624-4200.