



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ken Dey
(208) 381-2894 (office)
(208) 631-5322 (cell)
Deyke@slrmc.org

St. Luke's Boise and Meridian Medical Center Named Top Hospital for Cardiovascular Care

-Thomson Reuters Survey Puts St. Luke's Care in the Top 100 Nationwide-

BOISE – St. Luke's Boise and Meridian Medical Center's cardiovascular care is ranked in the top 100 nationwide, according to a survey released this week by Thomson Reuters.

St. Luke's is one of two Idaho hospitals included in the *2008 Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals: Cardiovascular Benchmarks for Success* list. Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise was also recognized.

"This recognition comes at a time when we are poised to mark four decades of exemplary cardiovascular care in Idaho," said Gary Fletcher, St. Luke's Boise/Meridian CEO. "Being recognized as a Top 100 Hospital for cardiovascular care is a direct result of the unwavering commitment and dedication of our medical staff and expert clinicians who provide the highest level of care for our community."

Fletcher attributed the high level of cardiovascular care, to the collaborative business relationship St. Luke's has with the area's top cardiologists, cardiothoracic and vascular surgeons. This unique agreement provides comprehensive management services and clinical direction for St. Luke's Center for Heart and Vascular Health.

-more-

In December 1968, Dr. Rodney Herr performed the first open-heart surgery in Idaho at St. Luke's Boise. Today, St. Luke's Center for Heart and Vascular Health performs more cardiovascular procedures than any other hospital in the state.

"Unfortunately heart disease remains the nation's longstanding No. 1 killer," Fletcher said. "That is why we remain committed to providing superior cardiovascular care and prevention education throughout Idaho and the region."

Thomson Reuters surveyed cardiovascular programs at 970 hospitals nationwide to compile the Top 100.

The survey, now in its tenth year, examined the performance of the hospitals by analyzing the outcomes for patients diagnosed with heart failure and heart attacks and those who received coronary bypass surgery and angioplasties.

"These hospitals provide enormous value to their communities," said Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president for performance improvement and Top 100 hospitals programs in the Healthcare business of Thomson Reuters. "They have set the new national standards for cardiovascular disease outcomes, process of care, efficiency and lower costs."

The survey didn't break out specific performance data, but said the 100 hospitals had an average mortality rate of just more than 2.5 percent compared to the national average of 3.4 percent. The top hospitals also had lower costs than average, about \$1,542 less per case.

"The benchmark hospitals demonstrate that the quality of cardiovascular care is still rising across the country," said Dr. Janet Young, a senior scientist at the Thomson Reuters Center for Healthcare improvement. "These hospitals pushed the bar to new levels, particularly in improved survival rates and reduced cost."

Thomson Reuters researchers analyzed 2006 and 2007 Medicare Provider Analysis and Review Data, 2007 Medicare cost reports and data from other sources to compile the rankings.

This is the second major ranking St. Luke's has received from Thomson Reuters. In March, St. Luke's Boise/Meridian Medical Center were named a *Thomson 100 Top Hospitals National Benchmarks for Success* award winner.

To find out more about the survey visit www.100tophospitals.com. To learn more about St. Luke's Center for Heart and Vascular Health visit www.stlukesonline.com.

St. Luke's Boise and St. Luke's Meridian hospitals are the largest health care providers in Idaho, providing patients unmatched care in specialized medical fields including cancer, heart and vascular, obstetrics, women's services and children's health care. With nearly 5,500 employees, St. Luke's is the second largest employer in the Treasure Valley, serving patients throughout southwest and central Idaho and eastern Oregon.

-end-