Iowa Heart Center earns high rating for VQI registry participation

MercyOne Iowa Heart Center has been awarded three stars by the Society for Vascular Surgery’s Vascular Quality Initiative (SVS VQI) for its active participation in the Registry Participation Program.

The mission of the SVS VQI is to improve patient safety and the quality of vascular care delivery by providing web-based collection, aggregation and analysis of clinical data submitted in registry format for all patients undergoing specific vascular treatments. The VQI operates 14 vascular registries, and only 45 of the 469 eligible centers received a three star rating.

Participating centers, such as MercyOne Iowa Heart Center, can earn up to three stars based on actions that lead to better patient care, including:
- The completeness of long-term, follow-up reporting, based on the percentage of patients for whom they have at least nine months of follow-up data
- Physician attendance at semi-annual meetings of a regional quality group
- Initiation of quality improvement activities based on VQI data
- The number of vascular registries in which the center participates

“Being recognized in the top 10% of vascular centers in the country, is a testament to the teamwork of our entire vascular surgery team and our commitment to patient care. This VQI data allows us to continuously track our outcomes and metrics and ensure that our clinical practice remains a model of quality care.”

- David Chew, MD, vascular surgeon and director of vascular surgery at MercyOne Iowa Heart Center

Coming together for our community

Recent events call for colleagues of MercyOne to elevate our values of Reverence and Justice by coming together, in peace to learn, understand and grow.

Left and center: Physicians and medical staff showed their support for the national movement White Coats For Black Lives on June 5, kneeling for 10 minutes in silence. The goal is to eliminate racial bias in the practice of medicine and recognize racism as a threat to the health and well-being of people of color. Watch a video of the event held at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center.

Right: MercyOne Director of Diversity Services Jacquie Easley, Pastor Jonathan Whitfield of Corinthian Baptist Church, Des Moines Police Chief Dana Wingert and Bishop William Joensen of the Diocese of Des Moines hosted a discussion on June 5 regarding ways to continue supporting the physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being of our community. Watch a video of the event.
2020 Medical Staff leadership announced

The MercyOne Des Moines and West Des Moines Medical Staff leadership is accountable for implementing processes to monitor and evaluate the quality and appropriateness of care for the patients we serve. They are also responsible for the credentialing and privileging of physicians and providers within the hospital. In addition to other responsibilities, the medical staff department chairs are members of the Medical Executive Committee, which reports recommendations on the above activities directly to the Board of Directors.

OFFICERS

Aneesa Afroze, MD
President

Blair Westerly, MD
President-Elect

Gary Hemann, DO
Credentials Committee Chair

Leatrice Olson, DO
Past President

Hijinio Carreon, DO
Chief Medical Officer, VPMA

ANESTHESIOLOGY
Robert Shontz, MD
Chair (2019–2020)

Jessica Lorenz, MD
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

CARDIOLOGY
General, Electrophysiology, Interventional, Advanced Heart Failure, Cardiothoracic

Christos Kassiotis, MD
Chair (2019–2020)

Richard Marcus, MD
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE
Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Cardiothoracic

Byron Johnson, MD
Chair (2020–2023)

Thomas Wernimont, MD
Emergency Medicine
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

Shrey Velani, MD
Critical Care
Vice Chair (2020–2023)

MEDICINE
Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Gastroenterology, Psychiatry, Nephrology

Maria Guevara Hernandez, MD
Chair (2019–2020)

Abdelaziz Ehaddad, MD
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

Michael O’Brien, MD
Gastroenterology
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

NEUROSCIENCE
Neurology, Neurosurgery, Physiatry

Esmarylda Henderson, MD
Chair (2020–2023)

Keith Kohout, MD
Vice Chair (2020–2023)

OB/GYN
Maternal Fetal Medicine, Obstetrics Emergency Care, Midwives

Sarah Massey, DO
Chair (2020–2023)

Tamara Dassanayake, MD
Vice Chair (2020–2023)

ORTHOPEDICS
General, Trauma, Joint, Hand, Podiatry

Chinedu Nwosa, MD
Chair (2019–2020)

Benjamin Beecher, MD
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

PATHOLOGY (EX-OFFICIO)
Matthew Andres, DO
Chair (2019–2020)

Carolyn Pease, MD
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

PEDIATRICS
Gastroenterology, Hospitalists, PICU, NICU, Surgery, Cardiology, Cardiothoracic

Karen Plati, MD
Chair (2019–2020)

Jessica Zuzga-Reed, DO
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES
Ophthalmology, Urology, Plastics, General, Vascular, Trauma, ENT, Surgery

Laurie Kuestner, MD
Chair (2019–2020)

Matthew B. Morgan, MD
Otolaryngology
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

Stephanie Pothoven, DO
Urology
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

RADIOLOGY
Thomas Mallisee, MD
Chair (2019–2020)

Ryan Cook, MD
Vice Chair (2019–2020)

Find it on Facebook Live:
MercyOne Beaverdale Family Clinic

On Thursday, June 25, at 11 a.m., Dr. Sudeep Gupta from MercyOne Beaverdale Family Medicine Clinic will join KCCI for a special feature on Facebook Live. During this special interview appearing on KCCI’s Facebook page, Dr. Gupta will provide a tour of the new clinic, and discuss the importance of child well visits and immunizations.