For the eighth consecutive year, MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center has been recognized as a Best Regional Hospital in central Iowa by U.S. News & World Report. MercyOne Des Moines ranks number one in the Des Moines metro area and second in Iowa in the recently-released 2019-2010 rankings.

The annual Best Hospitals rankings, now in their 30th year, are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive care for challenging health conditions or for common elective procedures.

In addition to its top ranking in the Des Moines metro area, MercyOne Des Moines is recognized as high performing in eight categories: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair, Aortic Valve Surgery, Heart Bypass Surgery, Heart Failure Care, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Colon Cancer Surgery, Hip Replacement and Knee Replacement.

“We are extremely proud of the quality of care provided by our world-class physicians, clinicians and colleagues on a daily basis,” said Karl Keeler, president of MercyOne Des Moines. “We are committed to our patients and their families, and we will continue our pursuit of developing innovative care processes to deliver the best quality personalized care available.”

For the 2019-20 rankings and ratings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 medical centers nationwide in 25 specialties, procedures and conditions. In the 16 specialty areas, 165 hospitals were ranked in at least one specialty. In rankings by state and metro area, U.S. News recognized hospitals as high performing across multiple areas of care.

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MercyOne West Des Moines adds neurology services

As MercyOne continues to fulfill our vision of providing radically convenient care to our patients, we are proud to expand the comprehensive community hospital services available for our western communities with the addition of inpatient, non-emergent neurology consultations at MercyOne West Des Moines Medical Center, beginning Aug. 1.

Inpatient, non-emergent neurology consultations will be provided onsite Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and can be requested during this timeframe by calling 515-358-0011.
Physician speaks to national audience about innovative colorectal cancer treatment program

In 2018, MercyOne Des Moines Cancer Center earned the prestigious National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer certification (NAPRC) from the American College of Surgeons (ACS). At the time, MercyOne was one of just five programs in the nation to achieve this designation, and the first non-pilot hospital to be accredited. Currently, only 13 hospitals nationwide have received the NAPRC accreditation.

Shankar Raman, M.D., director of MercyOne’s Rectal Cancer Program, was asked to speak at the recent ACS Quality and Safety Conference in Washington, D.C., to share his knowledge on establishing an accredited rectal program at a community hospital.

“It is very exciting as the first non-pilot program to be selected to present at the ACS national conference,” said Dr. Raman. “The fact that we developed an accredited program shows we have the knowledge, clinical ability and resources to deliver groundbreaking cancer care to meet the health needs of our patients. Our ACS colleagues have seen our results and asked us to share our knowledge.”

To earn the voluntary NAPRC accreditation, MercyOne Des Moines Cancer Center met 19 standards, including the establishment of a rectal cancer multidisciplinary team (RC-MDT) that includes clinical representatives from surgery, pathology, radiology, radiation oncology and medical oncology.

West Des Moines adding neurology services

Consultations will be provided by one of the following board-certified neurologists within 24 hours of being requested:

- Steven Adelman, D.O.
- David Friedgood, D.O.
- John Wright, M.D.

Inpatient neurology consultations needed after hours will follow the existing consult request call structure.

Patients exhibiting stroke and transient ischemic attack (TIA) symptoms will continue to be seen only at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center. Conditions that can be seen during inpatient neurology consultations at MercyOne West Des Moines Medical Center include:

- Numbness
- Seizures
- Headaches
- Mental status changes

St. John’s Bible on exhibit at MercyOne Des Moines

This week, MercyOne ministries welcomed a rare Heritage Edition of The St. John’s Bible, a work of art that unites an ancient Benedictine tradition with the technology and vision of today. The Bible, on display outside of Our Lady of Mercy Chapel at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center, is on permanent loan from Chuck and Janet Haas of Des Moines.

The Saint John’s Bible is the first completely handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine Abbey since the invention of the printing press. It was commissioned by Saint John’s University and the monks of Saint John’s Abbey, located in Minnesota. The Heritage Edition is a fine-art reproduction of the original. It is one of a limited edition of 299 sets.

Visit the display to learn more about The Saint John’s Bible and to enjoy the healing environment it fosters.
While working as a patient care tech at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center in 1998, Hijinio Carreon was moved by the connection he witnessed staff share with the patients in their care.

It was this compassion that inspired him throughout medical school, then later as a physician, educator and leader. Keeping the patient front and center while advocating for providers is Dr. Carreon’s aim as he prepares for his role as interim chief medical officer (CMO) for MercyOne Central Iowa, effective Aug. 9.

“I am honored for this opportunity to build on the great work and many positive contributions that have been made by Dr. Charles Keller,” said Dr. Carreon. “He has set the groundwork for working collaboratively with medical staff to create a better system.”

Dr. Carreon will oversee clinical operations for the medical staff, including all physicians and allied health professionals. His focus is to develop initiatives designed to improve physician engagement, patient satisfaction, safety and overall clinical quality. He will also oversee five residency programs – family medicine, internal medicine, general surgery, plastic surgery, and psychiatry.

To accomplish it all, Dr. Carreon has committed to working as interim CMO while continuing to put in clinical hours in the emergency department – an arrangement intended to help him see firsthand the impact of changes made and modifications needed. Given this workload, one of the first priorities on Dr. Carreon’s list may seem ironic: physician and colleague burnout.

“I want us to look at technology, innovative methods and new processes to make the system better for our physicians, allied health professionals and nurses while continuing to focus on improved patient outcomes,” said Dr. Carreon. “By reaching out across the organization and working in partnership with our peers, we can make a positive change.”

Dr. Carreon has a reputation for leading improvement initiatives at MercyOne Central Iowa. As co-medical director of emergency medicine, he helped develop a strategy to decrease patients left without being seen in the emergency department and utilized data analytics to improve provider coverage and patient throughput. While serving as chief medical officer at MercyOne Newton Medical Center, Dr. Carreon assisted in creating the pain management service line, and established an inpatient hospital program with virtual overnight coverage.

“My career with MercyOne has been an evolution, and I’ve loved it,” said Carreon. “I am excited about the many things happening at MercyOne and am looking forward to working in this next role to keep us heading in a positive direction.”

**Team Engagement**

**Family:** Wife Shanda and three daughters (age 8, 14 and 16)

**Education:** Undergraduate degree from Drake University; medical degree from Des Moines University Osteopathic Medical Center; beginning the executive MBA program at the University of Iowa in August

**Hobbies:** Biking, hiking, running & meetings