Mercy Cancer Center has earned a three-year accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (NAPRC), a program launched in 2017 by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). Mercy is one of just five programs in the nation to earn this accreditation, and the first non-pilot hospital to be accredited.

Shankar Raman, M.D., director of Mercy’s Rectal Cancer program, led Mercy’s efforts to be one of the first hospitals in the nation to earn accreditation. He worked with Mercy Cancer Center Director Tim Hackbart and Program Coordinator Jodi Wilson, ARNP, to put in place the accreditation requirements. To earn the voluntary accreditation, Mercy 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.

“This accreditation emphasizes Mercy’s team approach to cancer care. It ensures our patients receive coordinated and comprehensive treatment options for the best possible outcome,” said Hackbart.

“Rectal cancer is an extremely complex disease and it takes collaboration between highly skilled physicians and allied professionals from various disciplines to deliver high quality care by following a streamlined approach and best practices, to keep patients front and center of all we do,” said Dr. Raman. “This accreditation demonstrates that Mercy Cancer Center is one of five hospitals in the country which have met the rigorous standards, and that patients with rectal cancer will get optimal care here.”

“When a cancer center achieves this type of specialized accreditation it means that its rectal cancer patients will receive streamlined, modern evaluation and treatment for the disease. Compliance with our standards will assure optimal care for these patients,” said David P. Winchester, M.D., FACS, Medical director of ACS Cancer Programs.

For more information, please visit www.facs.org/quality-programs/cancer/naprc.

Enhancing the Emergency Department

For many, the Mercy Emergency Department is their first choice when needing life-saving care, making it the busiest in the state. On any given day, Mercy’s ED staff serve patients from rural and urban areas, with a wide variety of backgrounds and who speak more than 20 different languages. Add the inherent hectic environment of emergent care and challenges can mount for staff and patients alike.

To help enhance and improve the Consumer Experience, Mercy is preparing to offer additional patient and visitor information and education in the emergency department waiting area, using a new approach.

A helpful, easy-to-read flyer is given to patients and visitors to review while...
Enhancing the **Emergency Department** *Continued from previous page*

Our staff is trained to recognize symptoms

“*When visiting the Emergency Department*”
https://youtu.be/uhbl9czib2M

“*What to Expect,*” Dr. Hijinio Carreon
https://youtu.be/Ejz8UUAssCw

waiting. This piece covers important reminders, guidelines and information about how Mercy’s expert staff determine which patients are seen first.

Beginning in early January, a new series of videos will be shown in the emergency department’s waiting area. These dynamic clips are created to be entertaining, while also reinforcing the key messages included on the patient flyer. Once available, the videos will feature subtitles in both English and Spanish.

Pictured are examples of two of the videos included within the series.

---

**KEY RESULT:** **Consumer Experience**

**Mercy babies celebrate Christmas**

Babies are a wonderful gift any time of the year, but this Christmas season brought lots of ways to celebrate babies born at Mercy.

In the Mother/Baby Unit, babies born starting Dec. 17 through Christmas were given “The Perfect Gift” onesies created by Raygun. Siblings also had a chance to get in on the fun with reindeer antler headbands.

On Christmas Day, babies in the Mother/Baby Unit were wearing adorable crochet dresses or sacks. Nurse Jill Hayes spent many hours crocheting eight sacks and three dresses for babies born on Christmas.

Throughout the Christmas season, visitors to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) were greeted by a beautiful Christmas tree in the lobby, courtesy of the John D. Gomke Charity, in honor of a former NICU patient who passed away nine years ago. The tree was decorated with ornaments from families in honor of their NICU babies.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Christmas special for our babies and their families!

---

**Welcome new providers!**

- **Rushin Brahmbhatt,** M.D., Surgical Affiliates
- **Danielle Brodersen,** ARNP, Hospitalist, Skiff Medical Center
- **Melissa Myers,** M.D., Mercy Clinics Family Medicine Briarwood (Internal Medicine/Pediatrics)
- **David Roberts,** PA-C, Neurosurgery
- **Kirby Singleton,** PA-C, Mercy Clinics Family Medicine Waukee
- **Essam Tellawi,** M.D., Mercy Clinics Gastroenterology
- **Stephanie Wearmouth,** PA-C, Iowa Heart Center
- **John Wright,** M.D., Ruan Neurology

---

**Congratulations to…**

Emily Walton, Care Coordination, and Ethan, on the birth of their son, Bodhi Ceal. Bodhi was born on Dec. 20.

Renee Moorhead, Physician Billing Office, and Scott, on the birth of their son, Maverick. Maverick was born on Dec. 19, and was welcomed home by William, 9, Landon, 9, Savannah, 4, and Kayden, 3.

---

**CONTACT US**

The Bulletin is published weekly for staff and friends of Mercy Medical Center, 1111 6th Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.

If you are interested in submitting information to be published in the Bulletin, send it to PR and Marketing or call 515-247-3050.

---

**FOLLOW US:**

@MercyDesMoines