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Centra gets high marks for cardiac care

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Centra Health is one of the best hospitals in the state when it comes preventing patients with heart conditions from being readmitted to the hospital within 30 days of discharge.

That's just one of the findings in the 2015 Virginia Cardiac Report released by the Virginia Health Information group Wednesday. The report allows consumers to see hospitals' death and readmission rates across a range of cardiac care service lines.



VHI, an independent nonprofit health information organization, based the data on 2013 mortality and readmission rates.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Virginia according to VHI.

Only nine hospitals in the state, including Centra, were found to perform better than expected at preventing readmissions for patients diagnosed with and being treated for heart disease.

In three major areas evaluated — non-surgical cardiac care, invasive cardiology care, and open heart surgery — VHI determined that patient outcomes at Centra were as expected or better than expected.

Centra is among one of only 21 hospitals in the state that offer open heart surgery.

The report tallies death and readmission rates among patients who received cardiac catheterizations, cardiac surgery, therapy and diagnosis, open heart surgery, suffered Congestive Heart Failure, and had coronary artery bypass surgery or coronary angioplasties.

In a press release VHI Executive Director Michael Lundberg said, "There is much good news about the heart care Virginia hospitals provide."

"The number of people requiring hospital care continues to drop. Overall mortality rates and readmission rates have also decreased over the past five years," Lundberg said.

Compare Virginia hospital's cardiac care performance at: http://www.vhi.org/cardiac_reports.asp

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