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Virginia Health Information
Shanikka Richardson, Communications
Phone: 804-612-8185
Web address: www.vhi.org

Virginia Health Information Publishes Yearly Cardiac Care Report:

Mortality and Readmission rates on the decline for 6th year in a row

Richmond, VA: With roughly 630,000 Americans dying of cardiovascular related diseases each year (and climbing), heart disease remains the leading cause of death among men and women in the United States, according to Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Virginia Health Information publishes its Cardiac Care report each year during American Heart Month to help consumers learn more about heart disease, find doctors who treat it and compare the quality of care in Virginia acute hospitals. This report is now available at www.vhi.org/cardiac.

Offered as a free, online, searchable tool, the cardiac care report can be valuable for patients and caregivers seeking information about their heart care options prior to an emergency or planned medical procedure. Visitors can use the report to compare five years of most recent mortality and readmission rates for 73 Virginia hospitals. Statewide summaries for all cardiac discharges from acute and non-acute hospitals include:

- ♥ **Medical Cardiology:** The largest category, representing 64% of cardiac care, includes non-surgical therapy for heart disease such as angina, congestive heart failure and heart attacks.
- ♥ **Invasive Cardiology:** Accounting for 29% of cardiac care such as cardiac catheterization, cardiac pacemaker insertion, balloon angioplasty and placement of cardiac stents.
- ♥ **Open Heart Surgery:** About 7% of cardiac care is for coronary artery bypass graft surgery and cardiac valve operations.

Also contained in the statewide summaries are details on heart care by age, race and gender. Based on 2016 invasive cardiology data, mortality rates were less than expected for 40 to 49 year old patients and readmission rates were less than expected for 40 to 59 year old patients. To complement the report, VHI provides consumers with resources to help fight and care for heart disease including profiles of Virginia physicians who specialize in its treatment.

Risk factors for heart related conditions include high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, physical inactivity and excessive alcohol use. Locations in Virginia with a high population of patients with these conditions include Alleghany, Danville, Northampton, Petersburg, and Portsmouth based on CDC's Interactive Atlas of Heart Disease and Stroke. VHI's Cardiac Care report includes information to help consumers learn how to help prevent heart disease, avoid hospital readmissions and know heart attack warning signs. VHI also helps you learn about hospital quality with patient satisfaction ratings. These overall satisfaction ratings are gathered and released by CMS through patient surveys and are categorized into three measures: communication, comfort and overall ratings for each facility. Surveys collected April 2016 through March 2017 were released in December 2017 by CMS and published at http://www.vhi.org/satisfaction_compare.asp.

Virginia Health Information (VHI) is the nonprofit organization that businesses, consumers, the Commonwealth of Virginia and health insurance companies come to for health information. VHI publishes reports and consumer guides on health insurance, hospitals, HMOs, nursing facilities, physicians and other topics at www.vhi.org. To find the latest updates on health care data and statistics, find and like VHI on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vahealth.



[Virginia Health Information](http://www.vhi.org)

102 N. 5th Street, Richmond VA 23219
Phone (804) 643-5573

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