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March 7, 2013 9:33 AM EST

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press release
March 6, 2013, 6:50 a.m. EST

See How Hospitals in your Area Rate on Cardiac Care; The VHI Cardiac Care Report Ranks Hospitals on Readmission and Mortality Rates



PR Newswire
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RICHMOND, Va., March 6, 2013 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- www.vhi.org is the Most Comprehensive Source for Virginia Health Information and Comparisons. Patients and providers alike want to help avoid returning to the hospital after cardiac care. However, as many as one out of every six congestive heart failure patients return to the hospital within 30 days. So where do consumers find out how hospitals in their area stack up?

Virginia Health Information (VHI) is a click away and has just released the most up-to-date information on cardiac care. The latest data shows that while hospital readmission rates after a heart-related procedure is almost double among Medicaid and Medicare patients compared to those who are commercially insured, that rate has been steadily decreasing over the past three years. To access the report, go to www.vhi.org, click on cardiac care, type in your zip code and mile radius, then click show results and compare hospitals. "Given that heart disease remains the No. 1 cause of death in Virginia as well as the country, patients and their family members can use the VHI website to compare 87 hospitals in the state for mortality and readmission rates. The report includes procedures and care such as congestive heart failure, angina, angioplasty, pacemaker insertions and coronary artery bypass surgeries," said Michael Lundberg, Executive Director of VHI. "There is no other state in the country that has such a comprehensive online tool not only for cardiac care but also for outpatient procedures, long-term care, hospital patient satisfaction, health care costs, HMO comparisons and insurance options."

VHI.org- Virginia's Consumer Health Information Portal
Cardiac Care- Mortality and Readmission Rates
C-Section Rates for Doctors and Hospitals

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"VHI is uniquely qualified to provide consumers with user-friendly health care information so they can make better informed decisions," Lundberg continued. "We work hard to stay current on data, we are continually looking to expand the categories of comparisons that are available at one's fingertips."
Since 1993, VHI has supported and advocated for health care transparency in Virginia. Virginia Health Information (VHI) is the nonprofit organization that businesses, consumers,

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the Commonwealth of Virginia and health insurance companies come to for health information. For those without Internet access call 1-877-VHI-INFO to receive information by mail. VHI publishes reports and consumer guides on health insurance, hospitals, HMOs, nursing facilities, physicians and other topics at www.vhi.org. For the latest updates, find and like VHI on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vahealth.

Contact: Virginia Health Information Michael T. Lundberg, Executive Director Phone: 804-644-7026 or 804-690-6098 Toll Free: 1-877-VHI-INFO Web address: www.vhi.org SOURCE Virginia Health Information http://rt.prnewswire.com/rt.gif? NewsItemid=DC71749&Transmission_Id=201303060650PR_NEWS_USPR_____DC71749 &DateId=20130306

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