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VCU tops list of hospitals in Virginia

By Times-Dispatch Staff | From staff reports

Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center is ranked as the best hospital in the state in U.S. News & World Report listings based on hospital performance in specialized areas of care.

The national report looks at hospital performance in 16 specialties. Nearly 4,800 hospitals nationwide were reviewed, with 732 facilities showcased in the report.

The report is scheduled to be released today.

VCU Medical Center is listed as best in the state based on ranking in the top 50 nationally in four areas — nephrology, orthopedics, pulmonology and urology. The hospital also was "high performing" in nine specialties.

The report lists Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston as the top-ranking hospital nationally. Johns Hopkins, which had held the top spot for 21 years, dropped to No. 2.

Others on the overall Virginia list of best hospitals for specialty care include:

- No. 2: Inova Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, with two national specialty rankings;
- No. 3: Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk, with two national specialty rankings;
- No. 4: University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, with one national specialty ranking;
- No. 5: Inova Alexandria Hospital, Alexandria;
- No. 6: Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital, Henrico County; and
- No. 12: Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center, Hanover County.

Various programs rank hospitals using different criteria. Some emphasize safety, efficiency, patient outcomes and patient feedback, for example.

For instance, Virginia Health Information, an independent agency that has a state contract to collect and analyze hospital and nursing home data, also does a "best hospitals" list.

Its list, released in November, is based on hospital charges, costs, productivity and utilization, financial viability and community support.

According to the Virginia Health Information criteria, top-ranked hospitals judged on efficiency are Memorial Regional Medical Center, Riverside Walter Reed Hospital, Virginia Hospital Center, Bon Secours Mary Immaculate Hospital and Prince William Hospital.

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