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For Immediate Release

MORRISTOWN MEMORIAL RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EXEMPLARY OUTCOMES FROM THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO HELP IMPROVE SURGICAL STANDARDS NATIONALLY

MORRISTOWN, NJ SEPTEMBER 2009 - The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP) has recognized Morristown Memorial Hospital as one of 25 hospitals in the United States that have achieved exemplary outcomes for surgical patient care.

Morristown Memorial Hospital is one of three hospitals in New Jersey that participates in ACS NSQIP. Participants are required to track the outcomes of inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures and collect data that directs patient safety and the quality of surgical care improvements. Those hospitals that achieve patient outcomes that are statistically better than expected by a certain degree are given exemplary status.

The ACS NSQIP is a major program of the American College of Surgeons and is currently used in over 250 hospitals. This recognition program commends a select group of hospitals for achieving exemplary outcomes related to patient management in five clinical areas: DVT (deep vein thrombosis, thrombophlebitis and pulmonary embolism); cardiac incidents (cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction); Pneumonia; surgical site infections (SSIs), including those that were superficial, deep incisional and organ-space SSIs; or urinary tract infection. The 25 hospitals that were commended achieved exemplary results in two or more of these five areas. Risk-adjusted data from the June 2009 ACS NSQIP Semiannual Report were used to determine which hospitals demonstrated exemplary outcomes.

“As patients become more and more familiar with quality standards and how they relate to their care, we are honored not only to be recognized for how well our patients have done because of the high-quality care we provide, but also that our achievements will be used to measure and improve surgery and ultimately help even more patients on a national level,” said Rolando Rolandelli, MD, FACS, chairman of surgery at Morristown Memorial Hospital.

The American College of Surgeons’ NSQIP is the only nationally validated quality improvement program that measures and enhances the care of surgical patients. This program measures the actual surgical results 30 days postoperatively, and risk-adjusts patient characteristics to compensate for differences among patient populations and acuity levels. The goal of ACS NSQIP is to reduce surgical morbidity (infection or illness related to a surgical procedure) and surgical mortality (death related to a surgical procedure) and to provide a firm foundation for surgeons to apply what is known as the “best scientific evidence” to the practice of surgery. Furthermore, when adverse effects from surgical procedures are reduced and/or eliminated, a reduction in health care costs follows.

(more)

T H E P A S S I O N T O L E A D

The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational organization of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical practice and to improve the care of the surgical patient. The College is dedicated to the ethical and competent practice of surgery. Its achievements have significantly influenced the course of scientific surgery in America and have established it as an important advocate for all surgical patients. The College has more than 74,000 members and it is the largest organization of surgeons in the world.

About Morristown Memorial Hospital

Part of Atlantic Health (atlanticealth.org) Morristown Memorial is a non-profit 693-licensed-bed hospital in Morristown, NJ. Morristown Memorial's specialties include cardiology and cardiac surgery, adult and pediatric oncology, critical and emergency care and inpatient rehabilitation and neonatal intensive care services. Morristown Memorial is also a Level II Regional Trauma Center and a Level III Regional Perinatal Center. Home to the largest cardiac surgery center in the state, Morristown Memorial's other services include the Goryeb Children's Hospital, Carol G. Simon Cancer Center and Atlantic Rehabilitation Institute. In 2009, Atlantic Health opened the new Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute, a 200,000 square-foot facility located at Morristown Memorial that consolidates Atlantic Health's cardiovascular services. The Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute includes services at Morristown Memorial and Overlook hospitals.

Atlantic Health also includes Overlook Hospital in Summit. Atlantic Health is the primary academic and clinical affiliate in New Jersey of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and The Mount Sinai Hospital. The hospital is accredited by The Joint Commission.

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