Mount Sinai Receives Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification

Mount Sinai has become the first medical center in New York State to receive advanced certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center and joins an elite group of institutions around the nation that meets The Joint Commission’s standards and requirements for complex stroke care. The announcement was made after The Joint Commission reviewed Mount Sinai’s stroke-care programs in June.

"By achieving this advanced certification, Mount Sinai has thoroughly demonstrated the greatest level of commitment to the care of its patients with a complex stroke condition," said Mark R. Chassin, MD, FACP, MPP, MPH, President, The Joint Commission. “Certification is a voluntary process and The Joint Commission commends Mount Sinai for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate the standard of its care for the community it serves.”

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The Mount Sinai Hospital Gets a Top Surgery Rating

The Mount Sinai Hospital has received a top Consumer Reports rating for how patients fare during and after surgery. Only four hospitals in New York State received this top rating: The Mount Sinai Hospital, NYU Langone Medical Center, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, and Kenmore Mercy Hospital in Kenmore, New York, according to the publication, which rated nearly 2,500 hospitals across the nation.

To achieve its ratings, Consumer Reports analyzed billing claims that hospitals submitted to Medicare from 2009 through 2011 for patients undergoing 27 common scheduled surgeries and determined how each hospital compared in avoiding adverse events during a patient’s hospital stay for surgery.

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Happy “Birth Day,” Baby!

A maternity stay at The Mount Sinai Medical Center became a little sweeter in June when staff from the Department of Nursing, Women & Children’s Services began giving new parents pink or blue birthday cakes to celebrate the arrival of their newborns.

On an average day, the nursing staff—in collaboration with Mount Sinai’s Food and Nutrition Services—gives out 21 cakes to parents and babies in the Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder Center for Maternity Care, accompanied by cards that offer congratulations. All cakes are certified OU Kosher.

“Presenting a ‘birth day’ cake to families is a wonderful way to celebrate the new life in their midst,” says Marge Lilienthal, MS, RN, CLC, NEA-BC, Associate Director of Nursing for Women & Children’s Services at The Mount Sinai Medical Center. “The parents and families have been quite surprised and excited by the cakes.”

New father Hubert Balcewicz says receiving a blue-frosted cake a day after his son Hugo was born on July 10 was a pleasant surprise. “Not only was the cake very delicious,” says Mr. Balcewicz, “but the entire experience was just amazing. The staff at Mount Sinai really cares about our family, and receiving the cake was such a nice gesture.”

The Mount Sinai Hospital Gets a Top Surgery Rating

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“We are pleased that The Mount Sinai Hospital received a top Consumer Reports surgery rating, which is a testament to our comprehensive-care model that relies on team-based medicine,” says Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Mount Sinai Medical Center.

“Today’s complex health care environment demands transparency and results, and our surgical teams and support staff are dedicated to quality improvement and patient safety to positively affect patient outcomes,” says Michael L. Marin, MD. Dr. Marin is the Dr. Julius H. Jacobson II Chair in Vascular Surgery and Chairman of the Ruth J. and Maxwell Hauser and Harriet and Arthur H. Aufsies Jr. MD, Department of Surgery.

In addition to the overall surgery rating, the publication also provided individual hospital ratings for five specific procedure types: back surgery, hip replacement, knee replacement, angioplasty, and carotid artery surgery. Mount Sinai rated well in each of these categories, and garnered a top rating for coronary angioplasty. Mount Sinai is a national leader in angioplasty: for more than 15 years, Mount Sinai and physicians from the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory have received the highest safety rating given by the New York State Department of Health for this procedure.

Mount Sinai also attained a favorable Consumer Reports rating for hip and knee replacement, surpassing Hospital for Special Surgery in both categories. “Our skilled orthopaedic surgeons work closely with Nursing and operating room staff to achieve the safest possible outcomes, and we think the data—that Mount Sinai had 53 percent fewer adverse events than predicted for hips—reflects that passion for excellence,” says Evan L. Flatow, MD, Bernard J. Lasker Professor and Chair, Leni and Peter W. May Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Chief of Shoulder Surgery.

“I congratulate our hospital staff, whose dedication to patient safety and care coordination has helped us achieve this top surgery rating,” says David L. Reich, MD, Interim President and Chief Operating Officer of The Mount Sinai Hospital and Horace W. Goldsmith Professor and Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology.

The complete report is available in the September issue of Consumer Reports and online at www.ConsumerReports.org/ero/hospitalratings0915.

Editor’s Note: Mount Sinai Medical Center has agreed to comply with Consumer Reports’ “No Commercial Use Policy.” Reproduction of the information, in whole or in part, or any use of Consumer Reports’ name or rating of its products for any sales or promotional use is strictly prohibited. The information pertaining to this Consumer Reports information is for internal purposes only.
Mount Sinai Receives Comprehensive Stroke Center Certification

To attain this new Comprehensive Stroke Center designation, a hospital must have the infrastructure, staff, and training to provide state-of-the-art complex stroke care. For example, Mount Sinai demonstrated that it provides dedicated neuro-intensive care beds for complex stroke patients and neuro-critical care to patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week; has advanced-imaging capabilities; coordinates post-hospital care for patients; offers specialized procedures; and participates in stroke research, among other requirements for certification.

“Mount Sinai is deeply invested in providing the best quality care for our stroke patients with state-of-the-art technologies and renowned clinical staff,” says David L. Reich, MD, Interim President and Chief Operating Officer of The Mount Sinai Hospital and Horace W. Goldsmith Professor and Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology.

Under the leadership of Stanley Tuhrim, MD, Professor and Clinical Vice Chair of the Department of Neurology, the Center is pioneering new approaches in the diagnosis and treatment of stroke that can significantly improve patient chances for an optimal recovery, and is considered a leader in stroke research. “We bring together specialists from many areas to provide our patients with the benefit of a collaborative team approach,” says Dr. Tuhrim. The team includes vascular neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, emergency medicine and rehabilitation specialists, nutritionists, social workers and case managers, and a dedicated clinical nursing staff.

Mount Sinai is also committed to stroke prevention in the community. “We are actively involved in community outreach activities and in potentially groundbreaking research to optimize chronic disease self-management skills in stroke and transient ischemic attack survivors,” adds Dr. Tuhrim. “We are honored that The Joint Commission has recognized us for our dedication to research and the care of our patients.”

American Hospital Association Honors Mount Sinai’s Palliative Care Programs

Mount Sinai’s Lilian and Benjamin Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute was honored with the American Hospital Association’s (AHA) Circle of Life Award during a recent ceremony held in San Diego, California. The award, which spotlighted Mount Sinai’s innovative palliative care and end-of-life programs, was accepted by R. Sean Morrison, MD, who is Director of the Institute and the National Palliative Care Research Center, and Professor of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, and Internal Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

“This year’s honorees exemplify the best in health care—providing compassionate care and helping patients and families facing complex health challenges,” says Richard Umbdenstock, President and Chief Executive Officer of the AHA. “These innovative programs address critical needs so that patients can manage their health and live as fully as possible. They also reflect the needs of their communities as they provide the best care possible for those they serve.”

In making the announcement, the Circle of Life Award Committee said that it “was particularly impressed with the integration of palliative care and physician support throughout the medical center, interdisciplinary teams with strong nursing leadership, and emphasis on primary palliative care.” The committee also noted the Institute’s “complementary therapies and bereavement support that are more expansive than those provided by most hospitals and academic medical centers,” as well as its research and educational initiatives. Circle of Life nominations were reviewed by an AHA committee that included leaders from medicine, nursing, social work, and health administration.

“Since its inception in 1997, Mount Sinai’s Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute has grown dramatically and now encompasses a broad array of clinical, educational, and research activities,” says Dr. Morrison. “I was privileged to accept this award on behalf of the dedicated specialists on our interdisciplinary consultation team and our inpatient Palliative Care Unit. These expert physicians, nurses, social workers, spiritual counselors, and licensed massage, art, and music therapists help patients and families establish goals, make decisions, manage symptoms, and maintain the best possible quality of life throughout the course of an illness and across the settings where they receive care.”

Attending the awards ceremony from the Lilian and Benjamin Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute were, from left: Emily Chai, MD, Associate Director; Nathan Goldstein, MD, Director, Research and Quality; Jay R. Horton, ACHPN, FNP-BC, MPH, Director, Palliative Care Consult Service; and R. Sean Morrison, MD, Director.
**Education**

**The Page and William Black Post Graduate School for Continuing Education**

The Office of Continuing Medical Education (CME) offers seminars, conferences, grand rounds, and live webcasts for physicians and other health professionals to extend their knowledge and remain current in their specific fields. For more information on courses, including times, visit www.mssm.edu/education/continuing-medical-education/courses or call the Office of CME at 212-731-7950.

**Intensive Review in Gastroenterology & Hepatology**

This course will serve as an update on diagnostic and therapeutic issues. Sponsored by Department of Medicine. Register at www.mssm.edu/cme/courses/boardreview2013.

**2013 ING New York City Marathon**

The Children's Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center at Mount Sinai has guaranteed entries available for the 2013 ING NYC Marathon, on Sunday, November 3. This is the eighth year Team IBDkids has run the marathon, raising awareness and funding for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. To join the team, contact Tom Fitzsimmons at thomas.fitzsimmons@mssm.edu.

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<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>Meg Rosenblatt, MD, Professor, Anesthesiology, presents “Neuraxial Blockade.”</td>
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<td>Roxana Mehran, MD, Professor, Medicine (Cardiology), and Health Evidence and Policy, presents “The Lifeline Initiative.”</td>
<td>Wednesday, August 14 6:30 – 8:10 am Annenberg 13-01</td>
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<td><strong>Grand Rounds Neurosurgery</strong></td>
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<td>Thomas Naidich, MD, Professor, Department of Radiology, presents “Neuroradiology Conference.”</td>
<td>Jerry Edward Chipuk, PhD, Assistant Professor, Oncological Sciences, and Dermatology, presents “Mitochondria and Cancer.”</td>
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<td>Wednesday, August 21 7 – 8 am Annenberg Fifth Floor Board Room</td>
<td>Wednesday, August 21 7:15 – 8:15 am Annenberg 10-30</td>
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**$ave on Your 2014 Employee Benefit Cost-Share Contribution**

**A reminder:** There are only a few weeks left to complete your wellness visit before the Saturday, August 31, deadline. You can make an appointment to see your physician or visit a physician in Mount Sinai Primary Care Associates. You may call 212-241-9355 to schedule an appointment today.

In addition to a physician visit, you must complete the Health Risk Assessment survey (be sure to include your biometric data), by logging on to www.myuhc.com before Monday, October 28, in order to receive the 2014 medical cost-share reduction. If you have questions or need help scheduling an appointment, please visit the Human Resources benefits team, outside the Plaza Café every Wednesday from 11 am - 2 pm.