

# **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LRMC's Cardiovascular Program is Award Winning**

Lakeland Regional Medical Center's cardiovascular program is the recipient of two national awards for outstanding cardiac care.

LRMC received the 2008 Silver Performance Achievement Award from ACTION Registry – Get With the Guidelines. This accomplishment signifies that LRMC has reached an aggressive goal of treating coronary artery disease patients for 12 consecutive months with 85 percent compliance to core standard levels of care as outlined by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association secondary prevention guidelines. This level of achievement shows LRMC's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart disease patients. LRMC was one of only 93 hospitals out of a possible 500 to receive this award.

LRMC also received the highest designation given to hospitals by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for the second consecutive year. The three-star rating for quality heart surgery is only attained by 14 percent of hospitals nationwide and demonstrates exceptional quality and clinical excellence. The designation covered the period from July 2007 through June 2008.

“These results reflect the dedication of our multi-disciplinary team of experts, including specialized ICU nurses, operating room personnel, nurse practitioners, social workers, dietitians, all the way up to the leadership of this hospital, who are committed to providing the resources needed to achieve this goal,” noted Andrew J. Sherman, MD, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon. “The three-star rating by the STS is widely regarded by clinicians as the gold standard by which to evaluate cardiac surgery programs.”

Lakeland Regional Medical Center has the most established heart program in Polk County, delivered by leading, board-certified cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons, electrophysiologists and specialty-trained cardiac nurses, along with multi-disciplinary specialists. With heart experts who perform over 9,000 cardiac procedures annually, more cardiovascular operating room suites and catheterization labs than any other hospital in the area, patients at LRMC receive the most progressive cardiac services available.

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