

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



St. Alexius Honored Again for Cardiovascular Care

Sole-Source Amerinet Member Among Top 100 Hospitals

For the third time in the past eight years, St. Alexius Medical Center of Bismarck, N.D., was named one of the nation's best hospitals for cardiovascular care.

An Amerinet member since 1991, St. Alexius was selected as a winner of the 2008 Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals: Cardiovascular Benchmarks Award. St. Alexius was one of 30 community hospitals recognized, along with teaching hospitals with and without cardiovascular residencies.

"Amerinet congratulates St. Alexius on once again being recognized for its quality of care and commitment to excellence," said Todd C. Ebert, president and chief executive officer of Amerinet. "We are privileged to provide the resources that enable St. Alexius and more than 30,000 healthcare facilities to meet patient needs in an efficient, cost-effective manner."

The study examined the performance of 970 hospitals by analyzing clinical outcomes for patients diagnosed with heart failure and heart attacks and for those who received coronary bypass surgery and angioplasties. St. Alexius – a sole-source Amerinet member – received the same honor in 2001 and 2007.

As a group, the award-winning hospitals performed 63 percent more bypass surgeries and 42 percent more angioplasties than peer hospitals. While the average mortality rate for cardiovascular patients is very low (3.4 percent), the mortality rate for bypass surgery was 26 percent lower in the honored hospitals. The facilities demonstrated higher performance on the evidence-based core measures published by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and cost \$1,542 less per case, on average.

The 100 Top Hospitals study focused on short-term, acute care, non-federal U.S. hospitals that treat a broad spectrum of cardiology patients. They scored hospitals in key performance areas: risk-adjusted medical mortality, risk-adjusted surgical mortality, risk-adjusted complications, core measures score, percentage of coronary bypass patients with internal mammary artery use, procedure volume, severity-adjusted average length of stay, and wage- and severity-adjusted average cost.

St. Alexius Medical Center is a 306-bed, full-service, acute care medical center offering a full line of inpatient and outpatient medical services. Since its founding in 1885, St. Alexius has been dedicated to serving the residents of central and western North Dakota, northern South Dakota and eastern Montana. www.st.alexius.org