



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Mike Burke
(850) 416-1153

Sacred Heart Hospital Recognized as Own the Bone ‘Star Performer’

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Sacred Heart Hospital is one of only two hospitals in Florida to be recognized as a “Star Performer” of the Orthopedic Association’s Own the Bone program for leading the way in post-fracture care.

Sacred Heart Hospital is one of 200 healthcare institutions nationwide that have taken the initiative to ensure its high-risk fracture patients receive the treatment and care that they deserve by implementing the Own the Bone program. The program aims to better identify, evaluate and treat patients who suffer from fragility fractures, which are broken bones that result from a fall from standing height or less.

Older adults in the U.S. experience more than two million fragility fractures each year – more than the number of heart attacks, strokes and breast cancer combined, said Dr. Jean Dabezies, an orthopedic surgeon at Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola.

“The Own the Bone program is a clinically-proven quality improvement program which uses a multidisciplinary approach to ensure patients receive the diagnoses and treatment necessary to prevent secondary fractures,” Dabezies said. “The Star Performer designation underscores Sacred Heart Hospital’s commitment to providing comprehensive care to this at-risk patient population.”

According to the National Osteoporosis Foundation, up to 50 percent of all women and 25 percent of men over the age of 50 years will sustain a fragility fracture. Studies show that patients who have had a fragility fracture are two to four times more likely to experience another fracture than those who have never had a fracture. Despite these statistics, 80 percent of Medicare patients don’t receive recommended osteoporosis care following a fragility fracture.

Own the Bone Star Performer designation is reserved only for institutions that have achieved a 75% compliance rate with at least 5 of the 10 Own the Bone prevention measures including: educating patients on the importance of Calcium and Vitamin D, physical activity, falls prevention, limiting alcohol intake and quitting smoking; recommending and initiating bone mineral density testing; discussing pharmacotherapy and treatment (when applicable); and providing written communication to the patient and their physician regarding specific risk factors and treatment recommendations

About Sacred Heart Hospital

Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola (SHHP) is a 566-bed acute care hospital that has been rated by area consumers as the most preferred hospital in the Pensacola area and the best for quality and reputation. For more than 100 years, its mission has been to provide high-quality compassionate healthcare to all persons in need, with special attention to those who are poor or vulnerable. SHHP serves as a regional medical center with expertise in providing specialized care for treatment of heart disease, cancer, stroke, bone and joint diseases, and traumatic illnesses and injuries, as well as care to women with high-risk pregnancies. More women choose to have their babies at Sacred Heart than any

other hospital in Northwest Florida. Sacred Heart's Pensacola campus also is home to The Studer Family Children's Hospital at Sacred Heart, the region's only hospital dedicated to care of infants and children with acute injuries or illnesses. The Pensacola facilities are the hub of Sacred Heart Health System and its network of hospitals, outpatient medical parks, long-term care facility and a large group of 150 primary care physicians and specialists. Sacred Heart Hospital was founded by the Daughters of Charity in 1915 in a beautiful building that still stands on 12th Avenue in Pensacola. In 1965, the hospital was relocated to its present site on 9th Avenue. Sacred Heart Health System is a member of Ascension, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system. For more information, visit www.sacred-heart.org.

About Ascension

Ascension (www.ascension.org) is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system, Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2015, Ascension provided nearly \$2 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Approximately 160,000 associates and 36,000 aligned providers serve in 2,500 sites of care – including 141 hospitals and more than 30 senior living facilities – in 24 states and the District of Columbia. In addition to healthcare delivery, Ascension subsidiaries provide a variety of services and solutions including physician practice management, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, clinical care management, information services, risk management, and contracting through Ascension's own group purchasing organization.

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