

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 15, 2017

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### **Sacred Heart Recognized for Quality Weight-Loss Surgery**

**PENSACOLA, Fla.** – The Sacred Heart Surgical Weight Loss Center has been accredited as a Comprehensive Center through the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP).

“This accreditation demonstrates the high-quality, multidisciplinary and patient-centered care offered at Sacred Heart,” said Dr. Jeffrey Lord, bariatric surgeon and medical director of the Surgical Weight Loss Center. “I am so proud of this team’s commitment to patient safety and quality improvements.”

Leading independent healthcare-ratings organizations have ranked the Sacred Heart Surgical Weight Loss Center as first in the state of Florida for outcomes and clinical excellence. Dr. Lord is a fellowship-trained and nationally recognized expert in the field of minimally invasive bariatric surgery. Since beginning his practice in 1996, Dr. Lord has completed more than 3,800 bariatric procedures as the primary surgeon and has cared for more than 5,300 bariatric patients.

The Sacred Heart Surgical Weight Loss Center was established in 2005 and serves patients throughout the Gulf Coast, as well as from national and international locations. To address the needs of each patient – mind, body and spirit – the Surgical Weight Loss Center offers a multidisciplinary team of healthcare experts, including a bariatric surgeon, a dietitian, a psychologist and a physician specializing in weight loss and weight management. Procedures offered include Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass, Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy and revisional surgeries.

MBSAQIP is a joint program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). Sacred Heart has held this distinction, which must be renewed every three years, since 2008.

To earn the MBSAQIP designation, the Sacred Heart Surgical Weight Loss Center met essential criteria for staffing, training and facility infrastructure and protocols for care, ensuring its ability to support

patients with severe obesity. The center also participates in a national data registry that yields semiannual reports on the quality of its processes and outcomes, identifying opportunities for continuous quality improvement.

In addition to being an accredited center through MBSAQIP, Sacred Heart holds accreditations from major insurance companies, including being designated by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association as a Blue Distinction Center for Bariatric Surgery. Blue Distinction Centers provide a full range of bariatric surgical services, including inpatient care, post-operative care, follow-up and patient education. To achieve this designation, Blue Distinction Centers must demonstrate strong outcomes for quality, consistency and cost of care.

“Every day, we are privileged to witness transformations and each patient’s journey towards a healthier lifestyle,” said Dr. Lord. “Accreditations such as these, while rigorous, help ensure that the services we offer our patients are among the best in the nation.”

To learn more about the Sacred Heart Surgical Weight Loss Center, call 850-416-7546 or visit [www.sacredheartsurgicalweightloss.com](http://www.sacredheartsurgicalweightloss.com).

### **About Sacred Heart Health System**

On the Gulf Coast, Sacred Heart Health System based in Pensacola, Florida, and Providence based in Mobile, Alabama, are part of Ascension. Together, these Ascension healthcare facilities have served Gulf Coast communities for more than 160 years and they employ more than 6,600 associates. Across the region, Ascension provided more than \$113 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty in fiscal year 2016. Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. Ascension is the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world’s largest Catholic health system, operating 2,500 sites of care – including 141 hospitals and more than 30 senior living facilities – in 24 states and the District of Columbia. For more on Sacred Heart Health System, visit [www.sacred-heart.org](http://www.sacred-heart.org).

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