



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sacred Heart Utilizing New Clot-Removing Device to Treat Pulmonary Embolism

Pensacola, Fla. – Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola is one of only two hospitals in Florida utilizing a new device that treats pulmonary embolism, a potentially fatal blood clot that travels to a lung artery where it suddenly blocks blood flow.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 10 to 30 percent of people diagnosed with a pulmonary embolism will die within a month. Although sudden death is the first symptom in 25 percent of cases, others may experience symptoms that mimic a heart attack, such as shortness of breath, chest pain or irregular heartbeat. Until now, treatments options were limited to medications that dissolve clots, or prevent them from forming or growing in size.

Dr. Rohit Amin, an interventional cardiologist at Sacred Heart Hospital, and interventional radiologist Dr. Christopher Bosarge are two of only a handful of doctors in the U.S. using the FlowTriever System to successfully retrieve blood clots and restore blood flow to patients' lungs.

"The FlowTriever System is a game changer in the treatment of pulmonary embolism," Dr. Amin said. "Through a small incision in the groin or leg vein I guide a catheter to the pulmonary artery with the clot, grab it with a medical mesh and suction it out of the body."

When Lisette Crandall started having shortness of breath at work, she headed straight to the closest ER at Sacred Heart on the Emerald Coast. An X-ray revealed a saddle pulmonary embolism, or a blood clot that separates the main artery of the lung.

"It never crossed my mind that my symptoms were related to a pulmonary embolism," she said. "I'm fortunate that Sacred Heart could perform this procedure that probably saved my life."

With this minimally invasive approach, Dr. Amin said patients can return home two to three days after having the procedure.

"The FlowTriever System does something that blood thinners can't – it removes a large amount of clot from the main lung arteries before it can cause permanent damage to the heart and lungs."

Sacred Heart Hospital is part of Ascension, the largest non-profit health system in the U.S. and the world's largest Catholic health system

For more information on the treatment of pulmonary embolism, please call (850) 416-2328.

About Sacred Heart Health System

On the Gulf Coast, Ascension operates Sacred Heart Health System based in Pensacola, Fla. and Providence Health System based in Mobile, Ala. 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.

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