

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL NAMED A CENTER OF MEDICAL EXCELLENCE
FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS**

*Kidney Transplant Center Named Anthem Blue Cross Center
of Medical Excellence for Medical Transplantation*

ORANGE, CA – St. Joseph Hospital has recently met criteria to participate in Anthem Center of Excellence for Medical Transplantation. The hospital has been named a Blue Distinction Center for kidney transplantation by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies. Each Center of Medical Excellence is selected based upon patient survival rates, patient education and safety initiatives, transplant programs continuous quality improvement measures, and four other transplant program criteria.

St. Joseph Hospital Kidney Transplant Center has a long history of exceptional outcomes in kidney transplantation according to data regularly published by the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) (www.ustransplant.org), which is an organization contracted to provide data about transplantation to the federal government and general public. Patients transplanted at St. Joseph Hospital have been tied for the highest one year patient survival in the nation at 100% since 2001 and have been tied for the highest transplant success rate in the nation at 100% since 2003. The SRTR further reports that transplant success rates at St. Joseph Hospital since 2003 are higher than expected considering the risk factors St. Joseph Hospital patients possess.

“The St. Joseph Hospital Kidney Transplant Center has a history of tackling surgical and medical challenges, often accepting patients turned down by other centers, yet is still able to deliver the highest outcomes available, however, transplant success and patient survival is only part of the picture.” said Ervin P. Ruzics, M.D., Medical Director and primary transplant surgeon at St. Joseph Kidney Transplant Center. “Patients suffering from kidney failure are most concerned with having access to their life altering organ as quickly as possible.”

According to the most recent SRTR report, patients transplanted in the Southern California donation service area had a higher chance of getting a transplant quickly at St. Joseph Hospital than at nearly all of the other Centers in the service area. In addition, these patients required the shortest hospitalization after transplant in the State.

“Exceptional outcomes, quick access to transplantation combined with efficient care is a tribute to the commitment of the entire St. Joseph Hospital organization from the CEO on down to the well being of our transplant patients ,” says Ruzics. “We are honored to be recognized by the Center of Medical Excellence Program.”

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