U.S. News: 10!

The hospital’s amazing rise on the Best Hospitals lists reflects focus on patients, quality outcomes

It started in 2007 when one specialty at The University of Kansas Hospital was named to the *U.S. News & World Report*’s Best Hospitals lists.

Six years later the number has soared to 10 specialties. You read that right: 10.

That’s 10 out of 12 medical and surgical data-dependent specialties scored by the magazine. The exhaustive study of roughly 5,000 healthcare facilities nationwide also named our hospital best adult facility in Kansas City for the third straight year and best in Kansas. It’s the first time the magazine listed a top hospital in each state.

Only specialties that score in the top 50 nationwide are named to the Best Hospitals rankings. Fewer than 150 hospitals are nationally ranked in at least one specialty. No other adult Kansas City-area hospital or Kansas hospital made any of the *U.S. News* national lists.

How have we climbed so far so fast on the prestigious lists? Leaders at our hospital point to relentless devotion to patients and teamwork.

“This is a tribute to the partnership between our physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers,” said Bob Page, president and CEO. “You cannot get these results without all parties united in a single focus on quality patient care.”

“Our ability to sustain and grow our quality patient outcomes over a period of time is remarkable,” said Tammy Peterman, RN, MS, executive vice president, chief operating officer and chief nursing officer. “This makes six years in a row we have been named in the Best Hospitals

See the list of 10 specialties, including rank, on the back of this insert
“Our ability to sustain and grow our quality patient outcomes over a period of time is remarkable. This makes six years in a row we have been named in the Best Hospitals lists and the number of specialties is growing.”

– Tammy Peterman, RN, MS, executive vice president, chief operating officer and chief nursing officer

Another factor in this year’s big jump for our hospital is a shift in methodology used by U.S. News healthcare editors. In the past they based their rankings on four key areas: reputation, mortality rate, patient safety and care-related factors such as nursing and patient services.

Those criteria are still used, but this year the editors gave less weight to hospital reputation and more weight to outcomes. With less emphasis on reputation, outcome-related factors wield more influence in the formula this year – which plays to our hospital’s strengths.

Increased spotlight on rankings

Hospital leaders long have said awards and rankings are nice, but our attention is focused on patients. While that’s still true, the new U.S. News rankings recognize us for the ongoing quality care we provide every day.

“Rankings are important tools for consumers to make knowledgeable healthcare decisions,” said Julie Amor, Marketing and Corporate Communications vice president. “We measure because it makes us better.”

Watch for billboards, radio and other advertising in late summer calling attention to the remarkable Best Hospitals rankings.

“If you have a serious illness,” actress Joan Allen says in a commercial, “it’s important to examine the rankings and use the data to make informed decisions that can improve your care.”

The 10 Specialties

Including rank on this year’s Best Hospitals list and list history

Cancer

Up from 44, second time on list

Cardiology & Heart Surgery

Up from 39, sixth year on list

Diabetes & Endocrinology

First year on list
High-performing in 2011

Ear, Nose & Throat

Up from 31, fourth year on list

Gastroenterology

Up from 35, second year on list

Geriatrics

Return to list
High-performing in 2011

Nephrology (kidney)

Up from 37, fourth year on list

Neurology and Neurosurgery

First year on list
High-performing in 2011

Pulmonology

Up from 29, third year on list

Urology

Return to list
High-performing in 2011

High-performing

Gynecology, second year high-performing
Orthopedics, second year high-performing