

Four Tuscaloosa area medical facilities lauded

DCH, Northport hospitals are among "top performers" in quality and safety

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Four medical institutions in Tuscaloosa County have been recognized as top performers in quality and safety by the Joint Commission: DCH Regional Medical Center, Northport Medical Center, Mary Starke Harper Geriatric Psychiatry Center and Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility.



Fayette Medical Center in Fayette County, Northwest Medical Center in Winfield and Vaughan Regional Medical Center in Selma were also recognized in the list.

According to the Joint Commission's 2014 report, Top Performer on Key Quality Measures, DCH Regional Medical Center, Northport Medical Center and Vaughan Regional Medical Center were recognized for what it called "exemplary performance" in using evidence-based clinical processes that are shown to improve care for heart attacks, heart failure, pneumonia and surgical care.

Mary Starke Harper Geriatric Psychiatry Center and Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility were recognized for their performance using evidence-based processes when it comes to hospital-based inpatient psychiatry.

Northwest Medical Center was recognized in its performance in pneumonia and surgical care, and Fayette Medical Center was recognized in its care of patients with pneumonia.

"We understand that what matters most to patients at DCH Regional Medical

Center, Northport Medical Center and Fayette Medical Center is safe, effective care,” said Bryan Kindred, president and CEO of the DCH Health System. “That’s why all three hospitals have made a commitment to accreditation and to positive patient outcomes through evidence-based care processes. We are proud to be named Top Performers because it recognizes the knowledge, teamwork and dedication of our entire staff.”

The medical institutions were among 1,224 hospitals in the nation that received the Top Performer status, representing the top 37 percent of all Joint Commission-accredited hospitals in the U.S. The top-

performing hospitals had 95 percent or above on their performance scores.

Of the 74 Alabama hospitals that submitted their data to the Joint Commission, 33 were named “Top Performer.” Alabama ranked eighth in the nation in number of hospitals that received the designation.

“Delivering the right treatment in the right way at the right time is a cornerstone of high-quality health care,” Mark Chassin, president and CEO of the Joint Commission, said in a statement.

The award is based on accountability scores from 2013.

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