

For Immediate Release

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Mercy Hospital Rated Among Best Hospitals in the Nation in Four Heart Care Procedures by U.S. News & World Report

February 11, 2026, Buffalo, NY – Mercy Hospital recently announced that it has been rated a “High Performing Hospital” by *U.S. News & World Report* in **heart bypass surgery, transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), pacemaker implantation, and abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) repair**—the highest distinction awarded for these procedures.

This recognition places Mercy Hospital among the **top-performing hospitals in the nation**, reflecting excellence in patient outcomes, surgical expertise, nursing care quality, and adherence to evidence-based standards.



“This honor is a testament to the extraordinary skill, dedication, and compassion of our entire Mercy Hospital team,” said Derek S. Drake, DNP, MBA, President of Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. “Being named a High Performing Hospital demonstrates that our patients are receiving some of the highest-quality heart and vascular care available in the country. This recognition belongs to every clinician, every support staff member, and every person committed to our mission of healing.”

In its 2025–2026 Best Hospitals report, *U.S. News & World Report* evaluated more than 4,400 hospitals nationwide across 15 specialties and 22 procedures and conditions. Only 10% to 20% of hospitals received a “High Performing” rating in any given category.

The rankings analyze more than 800 million patient records, focusing largely on objective data, including: risk-adjusted mortality rates; complication rates and patient outcomes; nursing care quality, including nurse-to-patient staffing ratios and patient-reported nurse communication (HCAHPS scores); and Medicare claims data and survival rates.

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This year, *U.S. News* implemented new methodology enhancements, placing up to 75% of the total scoring emphasis on data-driven outcomes and reducing reliance on reputation surveys. It also added arrhythmia and pacemaker implantation to its rated categories for the first time. Mercy Hospital earned a High Performing rating in the newly measured area of pacemaker implantation in its inaugural year.

"Our recognition in four major cardiac and vascular procedures reflects the strength of our comprehensive heart program," Drake added. "From our surgeons and cardiologists to our nurses, technologists, and every supporting service, this is truly a team achievement."

To kick off American Heart Month in February, Mercy Hospital held a special awards celebration on February 3 to recognize the physicians, nurses, and hospital staff who achieved this accomplishment.

The rankings are produced by *U.S. News* with RTI International, a leading research organization based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

About Mercy Hospital

Mercy Hospital of Buffalo is one of the largest hospitals in Western New York and serves as a regional tertiary care center. Along with a wide range of medical, surgical and maternity services, the hospital houses the Catholic Health Heart Center offering the latest surgical and interventional cardiac procedures, and the area's only Joint Commission-accredited Comprehensive Stroke Center with physician experts and capabilities to diagnose and treat the most complex stroke cases. The hospital is also home to the Mercy Emergency Center featuring 32 private treatment rooms and a rooftop heliport, as well as the Family BirthPlace providing a full spectrum of maternity care services and a Level II neonatal intensive care unit. In addition, the hospital's freestanding Mercy Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) in Orchard Park, NY, features a 24/7 Emergency Department and two-bed hospital. Founded in 1904 by the Sisters of Mercy, the hospital is committed to medical excellence with its ongoing Catholic Health Mission to reveal the healing love of Jesus to those in need. For more information, visit www.chsbuffalo.org.

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