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SEQUOIA HOSPITAL'S HEART AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE RECEIVES TOP QUALITY RATINGS FOR CARDIAC SURGERY

Analysis of national data by The Society of Thoracic Surgery

REDWOOD CITY, CA – February 11, 2014 – Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital Heart and Vascular Institute has been given the highest possible ranking by The Society of Thoracic Surgery (STS) for the best outcomes of three cardiac surgical procedures performed at the Redwood City hospital. Sequoia Hospital received a 3-star rating (out of a possible three) for all three measured procedures: Isolated Coronary Bypass surgery ISO CABG, Aortic Valve Replacement (AVR), and combined ISO CABG and AVR surgeries.

The designation is the result of a comprehensive rating system using the National Adult Cardiac Surgery Database developed by STS, a leader in tracking surgical outcomes. The database currently contains approximately 1,000 participants across the country.

"Sequoia Hospital and the physicians at the Heart and Vascular Institute have long been dedicated to quality," said Luis Castro, MD, cardiothoracic surgeon and the hospital's Director of Cardiac Surgery. "We are one of the few hospitals in the nation to receive three stars in all three categories." Dr. Castro practices exclusively at Sequoia Hospital as part of Dignity Health Medical Group Sequoia – Cardiovascular Surgery.

"Our highly qualified physicians and excellent hospital staff have collaborated to earn this well-deserved recognition, but it is our patients who benefit most from the superior care we provide," stated Julie Biglieri, RN, BSN, CCRN, MPA, Sequoia Hospital's Director of Cardiovascular Services.

Founded in 1964, STS is a non-profit organization representing more than 6,600 surgeons, researchers, and allied health care professionals worldwide.

About Sequoia Hospital

Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital is an accredited, not-for-profit community hospital providing innovative and exceptional health care for generations of Bay Area residents. In 2014, the hospital will celebrate the opening of a rebuilt, state-of-the-art medical campus, including modernized emergency services and an all-new Pavilion with three floors of larger, private patient rooms.

Recognized for superior and sustained clinical quality, the hospital received the 2013 America's 50 Best Hospitals Award™ and the 2013 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ from HealthGrades®, a leading provider of comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals. Sequoia's Heart and Vascular Institute is a nationally known pioneer in advanced cardiac care. The hospital was voted "A Family Favorite 2013 Best Birth Center and Best Hospital" by readers of *Bay Area Parent* magazine.

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