



## **NEWS**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01 a.m. (ET) Friday, July 11, 2008**

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### **Saint Luke's named one of "America's Best Hospitals"**

*U.S. News and World Report recognizes Saint Luke's in heart and gynecology*

*KANSAS CITY, Mo.* – For the second consecutive year, Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City has been ranked in *U.S. News and World Report's* 2008 publication of America's Best Hospitals.

Saint Luke's Hospital ranks among the 50 best in two separate specialty categories – Heart and Heart Surgery (ranked 37), and Gynecology (ranked 44). It is the only Kansas City area hospital recognized in more than one category.

"It's an honor that Saint Luke's can validate we're living our vision to be the best place to get care, the best place to give care," said G. Richard Hastings, president and CEO of Saint Luke's Health System and CEO of Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City. "These rankings highlight the internal emphasis on a culture of excellence that we continually strive to achieve."

Saint Luke's Hospital was founded in 1882 and opened Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute as the world's first stand-alone heart hospital in 1980. A new, state-of-the-art heart facility is currently under construction and scheduled to open in 2011. Saint Luke's offers a regional center for high-risk maternity care and a neonatal intensive care unit providing the highest level of neonatal care.

Authoritative and influential, the 2008 America's Best Hospitals guide ranks 170 medical centers nationwide in 16 specialties--with full data available online for another 1,500 that are unranked.

The 16 ranked specialties are cancer; gastroenterology; ear, nose, and throat; endocrinology; geriatric care; gynecology; heart and heart surgery; kidney disease; neurology and neurosurgery; ophthalmology; orthopedics; psychiatry; rehabilitation; respiratory disorders; rheumatology; and urology.

The Best Hospitals list is accessible today online at [www.usnews.com/besthospitals](http://www.usnews.com/besthospitals) and on sale at newsstands Monday.

### **Methodology**

The rankings in 12 of the 16 specialties weigh three elements equally: reputation, death rate, and a set of care-related factors such as nursing and patient services. In these 12 specialties, hospitals have to pass through several gates to be ranked and considered a Best Hospital:

1. The first gate determines whether a hospital is eligible to be ranked at all by requiring that *any* of three conditions be met--to be a teaching hospital, to be affiliated with a teaching hospital, or to have at least six important medical technologies from a defined list of 13.
2. The second gate determines whether a hospital is eligible to be ranked in a particular specialty. To be eligible, the hospital had to either have at least a specified volume in certain procedures and conditions over three years, or had to have been nominated in the yearly specialist survey.
3. The third gate is whether a hospital does well enough to be ranked, based on its reputation, death rate, and factors like nurse staffing and technology.

In the four other specialties--ophthalmology, psychiatry, rehabilitation, and rheumatology--ranking is based solely on reputation, derived from the three most recent physician surveys.

*Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City is a member of Saint Luke's Health System, which consists of 11 area hospitals and many primary care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.*

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