

September 4, 2008

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Here's a fact all of us at NCH Healthcare System can feel proud of: NCH is the **busiest** hip and knee replacement hospital in the state of Florida and the **fourth busiest** in the entire U.S., according to the July 2008 issue of *Orthopedic Network News*.

The three U.S. hospitals that outrank us are New York City's Hospital for Special Surgery (a Weil Medical School affiliate); Boston's New England Baptist Hospital (a Harvard affiliate); and the Rochester Methodist Hospital in Minnesota (a Mayo Clinic affiliate).

Pretty amazing – especially considering the size of our referral area compared to these giants.

Why do we rank so highly in this key area? It starts with our 17 well-known and talented staff orthopedists. Also, we enjoy a long history of innovation in orthopedics, beginning in the late 1960s, when two NCH orthopedists were among the only community hospital physicians doing hip replacements. We also have an active pre-op educational program coordinated by Sue Graziano, Unit Director for Orthopedics and Neuroscience.

From presurgical screening, day of surgery care, recovery on the ortho floors and finally to discharge, the orthopedic team efficiently manages the care of our patients throughout their entire experience. The coordinated efforts of our entire interdisciplinary team create the positive outcomes for our high volumes.

Adding to our reputation, we have two post-operative recovery Ortho units -- 5N downtown and 3West in the Baker Tower in North Naples, with a total of 54 beds. The acute physical therapy team supports both these areas, helping get some total knee patients up and walking within hours of their surgery. No longer are such patients forced to lie in bed for days.

One recent success story: Sheila Strenkert, 3S Nurse Mentor, who just had bilateral knee surgery and walked out of the hospital four days later, using only a cane. She was inspired by her husband, who also had bilateral knee replacements. Mrs. Strenkert, one of our "more educated" patients, said her care was amazing and specifically mentioned Marie France Jean-Louis, Clinical Technician, Jennifer Cruz, LPN and Robert Yoshida, RN, all from 5 North.

Our HealthGrades rating for hip and knee replacements has improved dramatically from one to three stars, with our next evaluation next month. The fact is, **quality counts.** And NCH can only achieve such national recognition for performance by having the highest quality team of professionals delivering every day for our patients. Thank you for all you do for our community.

Respectfully,

Allen S. Weiss, M.D.