

Heart and Vascular Center receives two honors

In 2023, the Washington University and Barnes-Jewish Heart and Vascular Center received two honors: The Joint Commission's Comprehensive Cardiac Center Certification and the Mitral Valve Repair Reference Center Award. The Joint Commission's Comprehensive Cardiac Center (CCC) Certification is awarded in collaboration with the American Heart Association. Achieving CCC certification recognizes delivery of continuously reliable care to high-risk cardiac patients.

Barnes-Jewish Hospital (BJH) underwent a rigorous, unannounced onsite review in April. During the visit, two surveyors from The Joint Commission reviewed cardiovascular care at BJH. They visited the Emergency Department, Cardiac Cath Lab, Cardiac Diagnostic Lab, and Cardiovascular Units 7500, 7300, CT ICU, MRI and CCU.

The surveyors spent the majority of time talking with staff including nurses, case managers, social workers, physicians and radiology staff, as well as reviewing current patient charts and records of discharged patients. They reviewed protocols, clinical practice guidelines, quality improvement data, clinical outcomes, staff education records and provider education, certification and credentials.

"It was an arduous process but one that was well worth the effort," says Gene Ridolfi, executive director of Heart and Vascular Services at BJH. "Objective assessment and critiques help us to ensure that we consistently deliver extraordinary care."



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~Gene Ridolfi
Executive Director,
Heart and Vascular Services



The assessment identified and praised BJH processes including:

- High level of physician engagement and leadership participation in our program.
- Best practice collaborative and dedicated expertise across the multidisciplinary team.
- Best practice onboarding and integration of temporary/travel staff members.
- Best practice physician documentation and multidisciplinary efforts to get necessary therapies financially accessible to our patients.
- Best practice hand-offs from OR/PACU to the ICU.

This is the fourth consecutive year BJH received the Mitral Valve Repair Reference Center Award. The hospital was recognized for its "demonstrated record of superior clinical outcomes resulting from evidence-based, guideline-directed degenerative mitral valve repair."