

NEWS RELEASE



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Bridgeport Hospital ranked high-performing in Geriatrics for third straight year by *U.S. News & World Report*

BRIDGEPORT, CT (July 16, 2013) – Bridgeport Hospital has been ranked as high-performing in Geriatrics for the third consecutive year by *U.S. News & World Report*. The annual *U.S. News* Best Hospitals rankings, now in their 24th year, recognize hospitals that excel in treating the most challenging patients.

“The superb work of the Bridgeport Hospital physicians and staff members who care for older adults has made us all proud,” says William M. Jennings, the hospital’s President and CEO and Executive Vice President, Yale New Haven Health System. “Under the guidance of Beata Skudlarska, MD, Executive Director, Geriatrics and Palliative Care, and her team, we have combined clinical expertise with the understanding and compassion that geriatric patients and their families have come to appreciate.”

Geriatrics was established as a section in Bridgeport Hospital’s Department of Medicine when Dr. Skudlarska joined the hospital staff in 2000 as Chief of Geriatrics. A freestanding Center for Geriatrics was soon opened on Armory Road in Stratford. It continues to serve as the hub for a growing number of geriatricians and geriatric nurse specialists who serve patients at the hospital, nursing homes and other extended care facilities, and in patients’ homes through the Center’s Home Visit Program.

In 2012, after more than a decade of growth and success, the Center evolved into a new Geriatrics and Palliative Care service line, with Dr. Skudlarska as Executive Director. Vivian Argento, MD, was promoted to Chief of Geriatrics, and Mariel Harris, MD, was recruited as Chief of Palliative Care.

Bridgeport Hospital also has a Geriatric Psychiatry Unit that provides specialized care to older adults with behavioral and cognitive disabilities such as dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

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“Recognition in the 2013-2014 *U.S. News* rankings is not only rewarding for us as caregivers but it also reaffirms that we are providing the very best care to our patients and their families, many of whom are faced with multiple, complex challenges,” says Dr. Skudlarska, who was recognized earlier this year as Bridgeport Hospital’s Physician of the Year for her excellent service and compassion toward patients and colleagues.

U.S. News evaluates hospitals in 16 adult specialties. In most specialties, it ranks the nation’s top 50 hospitals and recognizes other high-performing hospitals that provide care at nearly the level of their nationally ranked peers.

“A hospital that emerges from our analysis as one of the best has much to be proud of,” says Avery Comarow, *U.S. News* Health Rankings Editor. “Only about 15 percent of hospitals are recognized for their high performance as among their region’s best.”

U.S. News publishes the Best Hospitals rankings to help guide patients who need a high level of care because they face particularly difficult surgery, a challenging condition, or added risk because of other health problems or age. Objective measures such as patient survival and safety data, the adequacy of nurse staffing levels and other data largely determined the rankings in most specialties.

The specialty rankings and data were produced for *U.S. News* by RTI International, a leading research organization based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Using the same data, *U.S. News* produced the state and metro rankings.

The rankings have been published at <http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals> and will appear in print in the *U.S. News Best Hospitals 2014* guidebook, available Aug. 27.

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Bridgeport Hospital is a member of Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS), the largest and most comprehensive integrated health care delivery system in Connecticut. Yale New Haven Health System is recognized for advanced clinical care, quality, service, cost effectiveness and commitment to improving the health status of the populations it serves. Yale New Haven Health System’s service area covers portions of eastern New York, the state of Connecticut and southwestern Rhode Island. Yale New Haven Health System is committed to making the best health care easier to use.