

## Health First Heart & Vascular Program earns a prestigious rating for coronary artery bypass surgery

By Lance M. Skelly  
[lance.skelly@hf.org](mailto:lance.skelly@hf.org)  
System Director  
Public and Media Relations  
Health First

MELBOURNE (Nov. 14, 2023) — Health First's Heart & Vascular Program has received a prestigious 3-star overall isolated CABG recognition from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. The honor recognizes Health First's patient care and outcomes relative to isolated coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) procedures.

The 3-star rating, which denotes the highest category of quality, places Health First's Heart & Vascular Program among the elite for heart bypass surgery in the United States and Canada.

The STS star rating system is one of the most sophisticated and highly regarded overall measures of quality in health care, rating the benchmarked outcomes of cardiothoracic surgery programs across the United States and Canada. The star rating is calculated using a combina-

tion of quality measures for specific procedures performed by an STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database participant.

"Our patients and their loved ones put their utmost trust in the skill, knowledge and hands of their surgical team, and when cardiac surgery of any form is advised, we want them to be comfortable and confident that they will receive the very best care," said Dr. Matthew Campbell, chief cardiothoracic surgeon. "A coronary artery bypass grafting surgery is a highly complex procedure, and so this honor certainly reaffirms to our patients that this team has met the highest levels of excellence."

"This is a tremendous honor for the entire Heart and Vascular team at Health First, highlighting our commitment to quality and patient outcomes," added Dr. Seiichi Noda, cardiothoracic surgeon. "This 3-star rating is a true testament to the high level of expertise, care and service our team and the Heart & Vascular program at Health First have built."

According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), also called heart bypass surgery, is a medical procedure to improve blood

flow to the heart. It may be needed when the arteries supplying blood to the heart, called coronary arteries, are narrowed or blocked.

Surgeons may recommend the surgery to either lower your risk of a heart attack if one is suffering from coronary heart disease, or in an emergency situation — to treat a severe heart attack.

CABG uses healthy blood vessels from another part of the body and connects them to blood vessels above and below the blocked artery. This creates a new route for blood to flow that bypasses the narrowed or blocked coronary arteries. The blood vessels are usually arteries from the arm or chest, or veins from the legs.

Approximately 20 percent of participants receive a three-star rating for isolated CABG surgery. The latest analysis of data for CABG surgery covers a 3-year period.

"The Society of Thoracic Surgeons congratulates STS National Database participants who have received three-star ratings," said Dr. David Shahian, chair of the Task Force on Quality Measurement. "Participation in the database and public reporting demonstrates a commitment to quality improvement in health care delivery and helps provide patients and their families with meaningful information to help them make informed decisions about health care."

The STS National Database was established in 1989 as an initiative for quality improvement and patient safety among cardiothoracic surgeons. The Database includes four components: the Adult Cardiac Surgery Database (ACSD), the Congenital Heart Surgery Database (CHSD), the General Thoracic Surgery Database (GTSD), and the mechanical circulatory support database (Intermacs).

The STS ACSD houses approximately 6.9 million surgical records and gathers information from more than 3,800 participating physicians, including surgeons and anesthesiologists from more than 90 percent of groups that perform heart surgery in the US. STS public reporting online enables STS ACSD participants to voluntarily report to each other and the public their heart surgery scores and star ratings.

## Brevard Supervisor of Elections office collects 632 pounds of food for WESH 2's campaign

By Kimberly Boelzner  
[kboelzner@votebrevard.gov](mailto:kboelzner@votebrevard.gov)  
Communications Director  
Brevard County Supervisor of Elections

MELBOURNE (Dec. 8, 2023) — Brevard County Supervisor of Elections Tim Bobanic and his staff participated in WESH 2's Share Your Christmas Food Drive, collecting more than 632 pounds of non-perishable food to benefit Central Florida families in need.

"During this season of generosity and kindness, my team and I always look forward to being able to participate in this food drive, which is such a fulfilling way to help others," said Bobanic. "The overwhelming support of those who were kind enough to make donations, helped us to gather over 632 pounds of food for this very worthy cause."

The collected donations are shared with the Second Harvest Food Bank, which works with over 550 grassroots organizations across Central Florida to distribute the food to needy families.

The Supervisor of Elections office is committed to providing exemplary public service to the citizens of Brevard County. It is the intent to provide quality election services to include transparent, yet secure, elections with timely and accurate results.

For more information, visit [www.VoteBrevard.gov](http://www.VoteBrevard.gov).



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