Why Awards and Ratings from HealthGrades Matter

“The hospitals that have been designated as Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence™ have, across the board, been leaders in their commitment to delivering the highest quality patient care. Consumers can choose where they receive their healthcare, and our study again highlights the tremendous disparity in quality between hospitals,” said Samantha Collier, MD, HealthGrades Chief Medical Officer.

Gray Ellrod, MD, Chairman of the Department of Medicine at BMC, was honored by the American Heart Association with its 2008 Regional Outstanding Physician Leader Award.

Paula J. Aucoin, MD, Director of Infection Control at BMC, was named the 2008 Most Patient-Centered Physician by the staff of BMC.

Parvis J. Sadighi, MD, former longtime Chairman of the Department of Surgery, was placed on the BMC Physician Honor Roll.

Ann Marie Sudkowski, RN, Director of the BMC Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Center, was honored by the Massachusetts Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation with its 2008 Distinguished Service Award.

John F. Rogers, Vice President and General Counsel for BHS, was recognized by New England In-House magazine and Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly as a 2008 In-House Leader in the Law.

Award Winning Caregivers

Rebecca L. Johnson, MD, Chief of the Berkshire Health Systems Department of Pathology and Clinical Laboratories, was elected President of the American Board of Pathology. “Dr. Rebecca Johnson is an extraordinary physician, and this latest achievement is further recognition of her national prominence in Pathology,” said David E. Phelps, President, Berkshire Health Systems. “Our community is very fortunate to have exceptional medical staffs at Berkshire Medical Center and Fairview Hospital, where many of our physicians are known nationally and even internationally for their clinical work.”
OUR PEOPLE

Mitali Saha, MD, MPH
- Specialty: Pediatrics
- Medical degree: Albany Medical College, Albany, NY
- Residency: Wofford University Hospital, Mirco, NY

Wajid A. Siddiqui, MD
- Specialty: Hospitalist
- Medical degree: Quaid-Azam Medical College, Pakistan
- Residency: Center for Health Medical Center, Cypard, PA
- Board certified in Internal Medicine

Deepa Soni, MD, MPH
- Specialty: Neurological Surgery
- Medical degree: Howard University College of Medicine, Washington, DC
- Residency: Harvard Medical School/Botman's Hospital, Children's Hospital, Boston
- Fellowship trained in Staff of Neurosurgery, Magaur Hospital, Sydney, Australia

Lara Setti, MD
- Specialty: Family Practice
- Medical School: University of North Carolina School of Medicine
- Residency: Vermont County Medical Center

Betsy K. Valade, DO
- Specialty: Pediatrics
- Medical degree: University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Residency: Baystate Medical Center

Shazia Wani-Jun, MD
- Specialty: Internal Medicine
- Medical degree: Dow Medical College, Pakistan
- Residency: Berkshire Medical Center

Emma Weiskopf, MD
- Specialty: Neurology
- Medical degree: Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY
- Residency: Mount Sinai Medical Center, NY
- Board certified in Neurology
- Fellowship trained in Clinical Neurophysiology, New York University Medical Center

Michael J. Williams, DMD
- Specialty: Dental Medicine
- Medical degree: University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine
- Residency: University of Connecticut
- Board certified in Periodontics

BHS Welcomes All New Allied Health Practitioners Credentialed in 2008

Susan Downey Luhrmann, ANP
Christopher Bateman, PA-C
Laurie Bartling, PA-C
Darlene Boyce, ANP

Marylane Scoco, NP
Dennis Suman, PA-C
Steven Rich, PA-C

Clinical Achievements

HealthGrades is the nation’s leading independent healthcare ratings organization. Every year, the company evaluates and rates the clinical quality of the nation’s approximately 5,000 non-federal hospitals based on an analysis of more than 40 million Medicare patient records. The HealthGrades rating system uses only objective criteria—hospital mortality and other major complication rates—and risk-adjusts the analysis to take into account the age and sickness of the hospital's patients. The rating system automatically includes every hospital that reports to Medicare. Hospitals cannot apply for any HealthGrades award, and no hospital can opt out of the evaluation.

In its Eleventh Annual Hospital Quality in America study, HealthGrades found that patients treated at the nation's top-rated hospitals had a 70% lower chance of dying compared with the lowest-rated hospitals. The nation's best performing hospitals were able to reduce preventable deaths at a much faster rate than poorer performing hospitals.

HealthGrades evaluates more than two dozen common medical procedures and conditions, ranging from the treatment of heart attack and pneumonia to gastrointestinal surgery. The organization awards five stars to hospitals that perform in a manner that is significantly better than expected.

Recipients of the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence are those identified in the top five percent nationally across all conditions and procedures studied.