



Berkshire Medical Center is Ranked by HealthGrades Among the Top Five Percent of Hospitals in the Nation for Gastrointestinal Medical Treatment

BMC is also ranked first in Massachusetts for GI medical treatment and third out of all state hospitals for GI services.

Excellent patient outcomes in gastrointestinal treatment start with people – highly trained medical professionals who are as skilled at caring for patients as they are at treating their illness. Add to that state-of-the-art technology to help deliver the most accurate diagnoses, and an administration that supports the highest ideals of patient care. According to Ira J. Schmelkin, MD, Division Chief of Gastroenterology at Berkshire Medical Center, these are the elements that lead to outstanding results.

“I’ve never worked in a hospital with more experienced gastroenterologists, a better nursing and ancillary staff, or one that had more advanced equipment than we have here at BMC,” he said. “I am amazed at the difference in terms of competence, friendliness and respect that every patient receives. All of this translates into excellent patient care.”

Gastrointestinal illnesses can be complex, with a variety of often subtle symptoms. “Listen to the patient,” Dr. Schmelkin said. “Patients know their bodies better than anybody else and, if you listen, they’ll tell you what’s wrong.”

Reaching a diagnosis may require a journey through a variety of related services including the health system’s excellent endoscopy service, in which high definition scopes enable gastroenterologists to search inside the body. Sometimes, the journey begins with an emergency.

“When we’re called in the middle of the night for an emergency, the on-call team is as skilled at assisting us with a critically ill patient as the teams available during the day,” Dr. Schmelkin said. “It’s a remarkable feature of this hospital which is reflected in the quality of care we provide our patients and their outcomes.”

HealthGrades 2009 ratings for BMC Gastrointestinal Services:

- *Five-star rated for the treatment of GI bleeds for two years in a row*
- *Five-star rated for the treatment of pancreatitis*

