

# HOW TO CHOOSE A QUALITY HEART PROGRAM



**T**he region's first and only dedicated heart hospital is unlike any facility within hundreds of miles. It unites a long-standing team of cardiac superspecialists within an advanced setting built from the ground up for superior cardiac care. Here, patients receive comprehensive cardiac services – from diagnostics and interventional cardiology to open heart surgery and transplants – at one location. Sentara Heart Hospital has all-private rooms, including 112 inpatient beds and 45 pre/post procedural rooms for patients undergoing interventional cardiac procedures. It houses five cardiac operating rooms designed to accommodate 2,000 cardiac surgeries a year. There are six catheterization labs for diagnostic and interventional procedures. A parking garage with 450 spaces is available to heart patients and family.

With the knowledge that the extraordinary cardiac achievements of Sentara Norfolk General Hospital are the living legacy of the new Sentara Heart Hospital, here are facts to help you make informed decisions.

## **Does the hospital perform a high volume of heart surgeries?**

Cardiothoracic surgeons at Sentara have performed more than 43,000 heart surgeries since 1967. In addition, these same surgeons have performed more than 276 heart transplants since 1989.

## **How low is their heart surgery patient mortality?**

Sentara has a proven track record of success that consistently outperforms national standards for heart surgery mortality. See chart on opposite page.

## **What is their cardiac surgeon expertise?**

Cardiothoracic surgeons at Sentara have performed heart surgeries and other advanced heart treatments since 1967. Highly skilled cardiothoracic surgeons have worked and trained at top heart institutions including Johns Hopkins, the Mayo Clinic, and Stanford.



[www.sentara.com/heart](http://www.sentara.com/heart)

## How long has the hospital performed open heart surgery?

Sentara Norfolk General Hospital has performed open heart surgery since 1967 – with proven success rates. Open heart surgery patient mortality rates surpass national averages and are better than some of the top-ranked heart programs in the nation. Additionally, Sentara has built the strongest heart team in the region – including cardiothoracic surgeons, cardiac anesthesiologists, operating room nurses, operating room technologists, perfusionists, specially trained cardiac nurses, skilled physician subspecialists, cardiac rehabilitation specialists, cardiac nutritionists, and many more.



*Sentara Heart Hospital surgeon Dr. Jeffery Rich appears on the cover of the 2007 "America's Best Hospital" edition of U.S. News & World Report.*

## Is the hospital ranked among the *U.S. News & World Report* heart hospitals?

Sentara Heart Hospital's heart program placed 33rd among the top 50 hospitals in the nation in the 2007 *U.S. News & World Report* ranking and attained a mortality ratio better than eight of the top ten ranked programs.

## Are there subspecialists skilled in working with heart surgery patients?

The heart team includes quality subspecialists who are trained and skilled in addressing the unique medical needs of cardiac surgery patients. These highly skilled subspecialists include pulmonary critical care specialists, nephrologists, neurosurgeons, and others. The unique knowledge and teamwork between the heart surgeons and skilled subspecialists is critical to the successful outcome of cardiac surgery patients.

## What is the hospital's outcome record on interventional procedures?

For cardiac interventional procedures such as angioplasties and stents, the published national average is 1.05% mortality rate. On more than 1,961 such procedures, Sentara Heart Hospital was far below that standard in 2006 – the lower the mortality, the better.

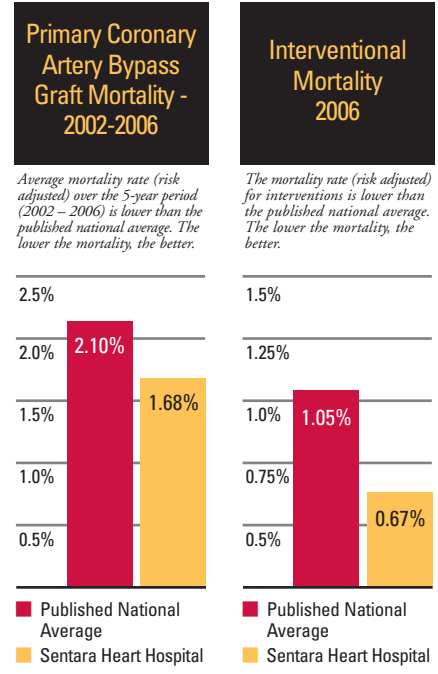
## Do they have anesthesiologists who specialize exclusively in cardiac surgery cases?

Sentara Heart Hospital works with specially trained cardiac anesthesiologists who are dedicated to our heart surgery patients. Cardiac anesthesiologists have special skills in open heart surgery and are the experts of choice in anesthesia for cardiac surgery procedures.

## Do they offer the latest procedures and technology?

Sentara has long been an innovator and pioneer in delivering the latest technology in heart care. We were the first in the region to perform many life-saving heart procedures including: • heart catheterization • open heart surgery • heart transplant • drug-eluting stent • adult congenital atrial septal defect interventional repair • minimally invasive valve repair or replacement. In addition, we offer cutting edge diagnostic imaging capabilities with the 64-slice CT, Cardiac MRI and a real-time imaging system for heart bypass surgery called SPY®.

When it comes to your heart, you have the right to choose where you receive care. Visit [www.sentara.com/heart](http://www.sentara.com/heart) to learn more about the outstanding cardiac program at Sentara Heart Hospital.



*Published National Average: National participation of hospitals in a consortium for quality.*



*Your community, not-for-profit health partner*