



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE ALLIANCE ADDS *QUALITYPATH*[®] HOSPITAL AND DOCTORS

Program offers a 90-day warranty for high-stakes procedures

MADISON, Wis. (Oct. 1, 2015) – Eleven doctors and five hospitals will be designated *QualityPath*[®] providers as of Jan. 1, 2016 when working as part of a hospital-and-doctor pairing for high-stakes procedures.

QualityPath doctors and hospitals apply for the program and complete a rigorous application process that shows they meet *QualityPath* standards. *QualityPath* uses national measures of quality, such as complication rates, and requires implementation of clinical processes shown to improve patient outcomes. For example, designated doctors and hospitals engage in shared decision-making with patients and use technology to avoid exposing patients to harm associated with overuse of imaging tests.

Five doctors and four hospitals are already *QualityPath* providers. They completed a maintenance of designation process, which included submitting updated quality data, to renew their designation.

In addition, Sauk Prairie Hospital and six doctors who perform surgery as part of Sauk Prairie Healthcare have committed to meet *QualityPath* designation standards by Jan. 1, 2016 for total hip replacement and knee replacement.

Designated doctors and hospitals also agree to a bundled price with a 90-day warranty to qualify for the *QualityPath* program. The warranty means that doctors and hospitals – not the patients and not the employer who sponsors their self-funded health benefits – pay the cost of related complications or readmissions arising from the procedure.

Designated *QualityPath* doctors and their hospital partners are:

Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)

- Dr. Vijay Kantamneni at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, Wis.

Knee Replacement and Total Hip Replacement

- Dr. James Bowers at Meriter Hospital, Madison, Wis.
- Dr. Lance Sathoff at Monroe Clinic, Monroe, Wis.
- Dr. Mark Barba at Rockford Memorial Hospital, Rockford, Ill.
- Dr. Michael Chmell at Rockford Memorial Hospital, Rockford, Ill.
- Dr. Matthew M. Hebert at Sauk Prairie Hospital, Prairie du Sac, Wis.
- Dr. Diana L. Kruse at Sauk Prairie Hospital, Prairie du Sac, Wis.
- Dr. Michael D.C. Lamson at Sauk Prairie Hospital, Prairie du Sac, Wis.
- Dr. David M. Marcu at Sauk Prairie Hospital, Prairie du Sac, Wis.
- Dr. William R. Niedermeier at Sauk Prairie Hospital, Prairie du Sac, Wis.
- Dr. Arnold N. Rosenthal at Sauk Prairie Hospital, Prairie du Sac, Wis.

Additional information about designated doctors and hospitals is provided at the end of this release, along with a quote from Sauk Prairie Healthcare CEO Larry Schroeder related to joining QualityPath as a designated provider.

“Doctors and hospitals make a significant commitment of talent and resources to participate in *QualityPath*,” said Alliance President and CEO Cheryl DeMars. “The result is high-value care that benefits patients and employers.”

Alliance member employers who participate in *QualityPath* offer 100 percent coverage of medical procedure costs to encourage employees and family members to use designated doctors and hospitals. Patients get personal assistance from a patient experience manager, who is also a registered nurse.

DeMars noted that The Alliance is exploring new areas of care for future *QualityPath* development.

The Alliance is an employer-owned, not-for-profit cooperative that moves health care forward by controlling costs, improving quality and engaging individuals in their health. It has 240 employer members that provide health benefit coverage to more than 100,000 people in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa.

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FAQs are available here: <http://www.the-alliance.org/Members/QualityPath/FAQ/>

NOTE: Cheryl DeMars is available for interviews.

Quote from Sauk Prairie Healthcare’s Chief Executive Officer Larry Schroeder:

“We are proud to be recognized for high-value, cost efficient care,” remarked Larry Schroeder, Chief Executive Officer of Sauk Prairie Healthcare. “We have worked very hard to make our joint replacement experience the best in the nation. Our surgeons are the key leaders in our improvement efforts, and the results speak for themselves.”

“We are pleased to offer award-winning orthopedic care in the comfortable, healing environment of our new hospital, specifically designed with patient safety and dignity as top priorities,” said Schroeder. “Everyone at Sauk Prairie Healthcare has the patient’s experience in mind. I continually hear from patients that their experiences have been outstanding, and they wouldn’t go anywhere else.”

*Quotes from other hospital systems are available in the 2014 release, found at this link: http://www.the-alliance.org/Members/QualityPath/QualityPath_Press_Releases/ (click on *The Alliance Announces QualityPath Designated Doctors*).*

More Information About Designated Doctors

Please note: Photos of designated doctors can be downloaded at http://www.the-alliance.org/press_room/press_releases/

Dr. Mark Barba

Dr. Mark Barba earned his B.S. degree in biology at Chicago University and an M.S. degree in evolutionary biology at the University of Illinois. He continued his studies at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, obtaining his medical degree. Following orthopedic residency at Wayne State University, Dr. Barba completed additional fellowship training in Joint Replacement Surgery and Research at Rush University Medical Center.

His practice at Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd. is focused on adult reconstructive surgery and primary and revision joint replacement surgery, with an interest in advanced procedures such as hip resurfacing and partial knee replacement. He has completed advance training on the less invasive hip replacement procedure Direct Anterior Approach under the direction of the procedure’s pioneers, Dr. Roger Emerson Jr. and Dr. John Barrington in Plano, Texas. Dr. Barba is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.

Dr. James Bowers

Dr. James Bowers, MD, specializes in treating knees and hips. Through his work in orthopedics, he is able to restore his patients’ active lifestyles through both rehabilitation and surgery. He likes to be on the cutting edge of orthopedic techniques and technologies, always looking to improve and learn new procedures. Dr. Bowers clearly communicates how he will perform a procedure and what a patient should expect afterward. He looks out for his patients, treating them like a member of his own family and making sure they are satisfied with their results. Learn more at meriter.com/Bowers.

Dr. Michael Chmell

Dr. Michael Chmell earned his B.S. degree at the University of Notre Dame. He continued his studies at the University of Chicago Medical School, where he obtained his medical degree. Following his residency at Vanderbilt University he completed a year-long fellowship, subspecializing in total joint arthroplasty at Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Harvard University Medical School.

His practice at Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd. is focused on adult reconstructive surgery. He remains active in continuing medical education and serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He participates in research and clinical outcomes studies, has authored several published articles, and presented numerous lectures at Orthopedic conferences and seminars. Dr. Chmell is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Dr. Matthew M. Hebert (effective Jan. 1, 2016)

As an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Matthew Hebert sees his role primarily as an educator, teaching patients about their medical problem and potential solutions. He takes time to listen, and exhausts non-operative treatment options before recommending surgery.

Dr. Hebert's areas of interest include hip resurfacing; anterior hip replacement; hip replacement; knee replacement; partial knee replacement; shoulder replacement; shoulder and knee arthroscopies; reconstructive surgery; foot and ankle surgery; sports medicine; and hand surgery. A board-certified orthopedic surgeon, he earned his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison, and completed his orthopedics training there as well.

Dr. Diana L. Kruse (effective Jan. 1, 2016)

Dr. Diana Kruse is an orthopedic surgeon who treats people every day who suffer from pain and limited function; helping them feel better is the most rewarding part of her job.

Dr. Kruse's areas of interest include hand, shoulder and upper extremity surgery; back surgery; arthroscopic surgery; sports medicine; total joint arthroplasty; lower extremity surgery including foot and ankle; acute injury care including fractures; and osteoporosis management. A board-certified orthopedic surgeon, she earned her medical degree from the University of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison, and completed her orthopedics training there as well.

Dr. Michael D.C. Lamson (effective Jan. 1, 2016)

Dr. Michael Lamson likes to help people and finds the most rewarding part of his practice to be helping his patients get back to doing the things they want to do, pain free.

Dr. Lamson's areas of interest include anterior hip replacement; hip resurfacing; knee replacement; partial knee replacement; shoulder and knee arthroscopies; reconstructive surgery; foot and ankle surgery; sports medicine; hand surgery; rotator cuff repair; shoulder replacement; and reverse shoulder arthroplasty. A board-certified orthopedic surgeon, he earned his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison, and completed his orthopedics training there as well.

Dr. David M. Marcu (effective Jan. 1, 2016)

Dr. David Marcu works closely with his patients to ensure they understand all their treatment options. When it comes to joint replacement, he helps patients know what to expect and how to prepare if they choose this elective option.

Dr. Marcu's areas of interest include sports medicine; arthroscopic surgery; knee replacement; hip replacement; cartilage preservation; ACL and meniscus surgery; arthroscopic rotator cuff repair; arthroscopic shoulder stabilization; shoulder replacement and resurfacing; reverse shoulder replacement; hand surgery; and fracture care. A board-certified orthopedic surgeon, he earned his medical degree from Northwestern University and completed his orthopedics training at the University of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison.

Dr. William R. Niedermeier (effective Jan. 1, 2016)

Dr. William Niedermeier prides himself on taking time to listen and thoroughly answer questions when helping patients determine their best treatment option.

Dr. Niedermeier's areas of interest include hip replacement; knee replacement; partial knee replacement; shoulder replacement; shoulder and knee arthroscopies; reconstructive surgery; foot and ankle surgery; sports medicine; and hand surgery. A board-certified orthopedic surgeon, he earned his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin Medical School, Madison. His orthopedics training was at Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. He completed a hand surgery fellowship at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Dr. Arnold N. Rosenthal (effective Jan. 1, 2016)

For Dr. Arnold Rosenthal, helping people get better and improving their quality of life is what being an orthopedic surgeon is all about. He believes the friendliness and caring at Sauk Prairie Healthcare is what sets it apart from other hospitals.

Dr. Rosenthal's areas of interest include total hip replacement; total hip resurfacing; total knee replacement; partial knee replacement; shoulder and knee arthroscopies; total shoulder replacement; sports medicine; and hand surgery. A board-certified orthopedic surgeon, he earned his medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, New Hampshire, and completed his orthopedics training at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Dr. Lance Sathoff

Dr. Lance Sathoff has been an orthopedic surgeon on Monroe Clinic's team for 16 years. In that time he has proven success in treating joint replacement patients and helped launch Monroe Clinic's Joint Replacement Center of Excellence. Known for his interest in new technologies and surgical advancements, Dr. Sathoff does direct anterior approach hip replacement, minimally invasive knee replacement and shoulder resurfacing as well as knee arthroscopy, rotator cuff surgery, ACL surgery and fracture fixation. A board certified orthopaedic surgeon, he attended the Medical College of Wisconsin with residency of orthopaedic surgery at Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals.

Dr. Vijay Kantamneni

Dr. Vijay Kantamneni is a board certified cardiothoracic surgeon specializing in both cardiovascular and peripheral vascular surgery, including Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG). In the last five years alone, Dr. Kantamneni has performed roughly 1,400

CABG surgeries, and he currently serves as the Chief of Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery for the Wisconsin Region of the Dean & St. Mary's system. Dr. Kantamneni also played a valuable role in St. Mary's achievement as one of the nation's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals in 2014 by Truven Health Analytics.

More Information About Designated Hospitals

Meriter Hospital

Meriter–UnityPoint Health provides comprehensive, coordinated care to patients throughout the Greater Madison area through our clinics, hospital and home care services. Employing more than 3,500 people, Meriter offers primary and specialty care, including heart and vascular, orthopedics, women's health, and the busiest birthing center in Wisconsin. Meriter is a 2014 recipient of the National Research Corporations' *Top Rated Pediatric Doctors* award, a five-time winner of the *Most Wired* award and *In Business* magazine's 2014 Top Company to Work For. For more information, visit meriter.com.

Monroe Clinic

State-of-the-art joint replacement procedures – including anterior hip—are performed in Monroe Clinic's state-of-the-art hospital and surgery center. Monroe Clinic has a dedicated location and team for the care of knee and hip replacement patients. The team is hand-picked for their expertise, positive attitude, and desire to provide outstanding service. Led by highly-skilled orthopaedic surgeons, clinical staff work together to provide exceptional care. In-depth education of patients and their coaches helps customers participate fully in their successful recovery. With over 302 total joint replacements completed since the program began in November 2013, Monroe Clinic performance results exceed national standards in the area of 1) time in the hospital, 2) ability to walk and sit comfortably, 3) overall customer satisfaction, and 4) recommendation of the services to others.

Rockford Memorial Hospital

The most comprehensive health care system in the region, Rockford Health System comprises Rockford Memorial Hospital, Rockford Health Physicians, Visiting Nurses Association, and Van Matre Health Rehabilitation Hospital. Known as "The Place for Surgery," Rockford Memorial leads the region with a surgical program focused on innovation, teamwork and the patient experience, as well as continuous improvement through data measurement and the honing of best practices. Through the *QualityPath* program, RHS offers Alliance Members a comprehensive Total Knee/Total Hip Replacement Program. The RHS joint replacement team of orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists, pre- and post-operative nursing care staff, therapists and case management utilizes a comprehensive quality score card with data from the electronic medical record to continuously improve outcomes. Patients are educated and engaged at every step of the way, to facilitate preparation and speed recovery.

Sauk Prairie Hospital (effective Jan. 1, 2016)

Since 2008, Sauk Prairie Healthcare's Joint Health Center has offered a team approach to care, involving patients as well as families with every member of their care team. Patients also motivate one another on their road to recovery. At this nationally award-winning hospital, staff focus on continually improving care, minimizing complications and achieving extremely high patient satisfaction. Sauk Prairie Healthcare's orthopedic surgeons offer state-of-the-art procedures, including anterior hip replacement. At the new hospital, spacious, private rooms as well as group physical therapy, make for a comfortable, healing environment where patients can focus on recovering quickly. A certified orthopedic nurse serves as the coordinator of the program, navigating patients through the entire joint replacement process. A comprehensive, online guide prepares patients prior to surgery and throughout their rehabilitation.

St. Mary's Hospital

Serving South Central Wisconsin since 1912, St. Mary's Hospital offers a full range of inpatient and outpatient treatment and diagnostic services in primary care and nearly all specialties, including the Dean & St. Mary's Cardiac Center, Family Birth Center, Neuroscience Center, Orthopedics and Emergency Services. In 2013, St. Mary's Hospital was named one of the nation's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals by Truven Health Analytics. St. Mary's Hospital is owned and operated by SSM Health. It is one of SSM Health's three hospitals, two skilled nursing facilities, more than 50 clinic locations and a health plan in Wisconsin. SSM Health Care is a Catholic faith-based not-for-profit health system located in St. Louis, Mo.