



July 15, 2013

Dear EvergreenHealth Colleagues,

I'm pleased to share with you that *U.S. News & World Report* has named EvergreenHealth one of the best hospitals in Washington in the newest edition of its "Best Hospitals" rankings. Among the 36 hospitals in the Seattle area, EvergreenHealth is rated the No. 2 best hospital in the *entire* Seattle metropolitan area, as well as the *entire* state. **And, it's the highest ranking non-teaching hospital in the entire region and state!**

This is a wonderful tribute and recognition for all of you who practice, work and volunteer at EvergreenHealth. This is the first time EvergreenHealth has been ranked in an edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Hospitals." The inclusion is particularly significant since these rankings are intended to help guide patients who need a high level of care because they face challenging conditions and medical issues, and to help guide payers who demand high-value care for their employees and members.

As we always remind ourselves, we don't seek out these recognitions and they are not the reason we are committed to excellence. It's our patients and our community we care for who are our No. 1 focus. That said, this recognition, along with all the others, provides an opportunity to pause and celebrate the exceptional care and service that is the hallmark of the EvergreenHealth patient experience.

In addition, *U.S. News* recognized EvergreenHealth for high performance in 10 specialties areas, which is the highest number of specialty recognitions earned by a hospital in Washington state. Those high-performing specialties include cancer, diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology and GI surgery, geriatrics, gynecology, nephrology, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, pulmonology and urology.

Only about 15 percent of all hospitals are recognized for their work in these specialties, based on criteria that include patient outcomes, safety data and our record for nurse staffing levels.

We are also pleased, and pass along our compliments, that our strategic partner Virginia Mason Medical Center was ranked No. 4 in the region and earned recognition for its high-performing specialties for the fourth consecutive year.

Congratulations! You are carrying out our vision to "*create an inclusive community health system that is the most trusted for healthcare solutions.*"

With my best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Malte".

Bob Malte
EvergreenHealth CEO

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