



Merrimack Valley Hospital

A New Day. A New Vision for the Valley.

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Merrimack Valley Hospital earned Best in Value Hospitals, 100 Best Value Hospitals and 100 Best Kept Secrets from Data Advantage Corp., a company that rates hospitals around the country using its Hospital Value Index™ scorecard.

Merrimack Valley Hospital was rated on the:

- Quality** of its care
- Efficiency** of its care and affordability, including the prices it charges
- Patient satisfaction** according to the experiences of its patients, and the
- Comprehensive reputation** of the hospital as measured by local public

perception

The Data Advantage Hospital Value Index™ is the first comprehensive scorecard to measure the relative value of care provided by United States hospitals. More than 1,500 general acute-care hospitals in 100 of the country's largest cities were studied. Those hospitals serve a total of 180 million consumers and Merrimack Valley Hospital scored in the top quartile within its local market.

"We believe this award is a reflection of the important work our employees and physicians do every day to provide excellent care while at the same time being responsible stewards of our limited resources," said Michael Collins, CEO of Merrimack Valley Hospital. "Understanding a hospital's value is an important discussion to have right now and we support any efforts that help consumers make informed choices."

The Hospital Value Index™ was created in response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which recently introduced Value-Based Purchasing, an initiative to drive improvements to clinical quality, patient focus and efficiency in hospitals. The Center's goal is to be an active purchaser of quality care during a time when consumers of healthcare services are shouldering an increasing burden of the cost of healthcare, and hospitals play a large role in that care.

Data Advantage says hospitals are being subjected to heightened demands for transparency and comparative information. Data Advantage believes it is no longer

enough for a hospital to focus on incremental improvements in quality and patient outcomes: Hospitals will ultimately be judged, and in some cases reimbursed, based on the overall value they deliver.

About Merrimack Valley Hospital

Merrimack Valley Hospital maintains 108 acute care bed and 17 adult behavioral medicine beds; all are private rooms. The hospital's clinical strengths include a 24-hour emergency department; orthopedic, endoscopic and general surgery; adult behavioral medicine care with a focus on geriatric issues. MVH also provides a wide range of outpatient services, such as surgical day care; x-rays; MRI exams; PET-Scans; 64-Slice CT Scans; digital mammography; bone density testing; dysphasia testing; nuclear medicine; and physical therapy.

The hospital's awards for excellence include the Excellence Through Insight Award, 2008 (HealthStream Research); #1 Nursing Team in New England Award, 2003 (Advance for Nursing Magazine); National Quality Leader Award for Pneumonia Care, 2006 (CareScience Select Practice); High Reliability Cardiac Care Award, 2006 (MassPRO); Top 100 Best Acute Care Hospital Award, 2004 (Total Benchmark Solutions); and Top Ranked Community Value Provider Award, 2007 (Cleverley & Associates). An affiliate of Essent Healthcare, Inc., the hospital serves Merrimack Valley and southern New Hampshire. More information can be found at www.merrimackvalleyhospital.com.