



CONTACT:

Pat Dolce, Public Affairs Specialist
(O) 239-343-8370 - (C) 239-989-2758

Department Mobile/After Hours:
239-789-5786

Lee Health's Shipley Cardiothoracic Center Receives Highest Possible Star Rating for Lobectomies
One of Six Facilities in U.S. to Receive Three Stars from Society of Thoracic Surgeons

(Fort Myers, Fla.- Sept. 7, 2018) --- Shipley Cardiothoracic Center has been awarded the highest possible 3-star rating by The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for lobectomy, a lung cancer procedure that removes a portion of the lung. The center is the only 3-star publically reporting facility in the state of Florida, and one of only six registry participants in the nation to be designated a 3-star program.

"We're very honored to be ranked among the top centers in the country and look forward to building on this success," said Paul DiGiorgi, M.D., a cardiothoracic surgeon with Lee Health's Shipley Cardiothoracic Center. "Our surgeons strive every day to provide the best care to our patients and this recognition demonstrates that.

Thoracic surgeons specialize in diseases of the lungs, the esophagus and the mediastinum (the area between the lungs). Shipley Cardiothoracic Center, located at HealthPark Medical Center, is a revolutionary approach to the surgical treatment of heart and lung diseases with an emphasis on innovation, education and research. The center helps shape the future of heart and lung surgery by spearheading cutting-edge research, advancing new and innovative surgical techniques and providing outstanding training to surgical teams worldwide. The vast majority of our patients undergoing lung surgery are done minimally invasively, either by video-assisted or robotic approach."

The ranking covers the 3-year period from January 2015-December 2017 and is based on data collected from the General Thoracic Surgery Database, the largest and most robust clinical thoracic surgical database in North America. The database is widely considered the gold standard for medical specialty outcomes databases. STS uses a star rating system to indicate performance. Participants receive a 3-star, 2-star or 1-star rating.

The database also offers surgeons the ability to voluntarily and publically report their outcomes. Public reporting demonstrates the commitment of these surgeons to transparency, accountability and quality improvement in health care delivery. Participation in the database and public reporting provides patients and their families with meaningful information to make informed choices about their care.

About Lee Health

Since the opening of the first hospital in 1916, Lee Health has been a health care leader in Southwest Florida, constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community. A non-profit, integrated health care services organization, Lee Health is committed to the well-being of every individual served, focused on healthy living and maintaining good health. Staffed by caring people, inspiring health, services are conveniently located throughout the community in four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals, outpatient centers, walk-in medical centers, primary care and specialty physician practices and other services across the continuum of care. Formerly known as Lee Memorial Health System, the organization began its second century of service with a new name in 2016. Learn more at www.LeeHealth.org.