



Cardiothoracic and  
Vascular Surgeons

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CARDIOTHORACIC AND VASCULAR SURGEONS RECEIVE  
DISTINGUISHED THREE-STAR RATING IN ISOLATED CORONARY  
ARTERY BYPASS GRAFTING (CABG) PROCEDURES PERFORMED AT  
ASCENSION HAYS**

**January 10, 2022 – Austin, Texas** - Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons (CTVS) has earned a distinguished three-star rating from The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) for its patient care and outcomes in isolated coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG) procedures performed at Ascension Seton Hays. The three-star rating, which denotes the highest category of quality, places CTVS among the elite for heart bypass surgery in the United States and Canada. “The recognition by STS of the quality cardiac surgery program at Ascension Seton Hays is one example of the overall commitment to excellence throughout the hospital campus. Hays County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in Texas and residents should be proud of the hospital services and quality that is available locally.” said Jeffrey D. McNeil, MD, chair of Hays Surgery Council and CTVS Cardiothoracic Surgeon.

The STS star rating system is one of the most sophisticated and highly regarded overall measures of quality in health care, rating the benchmarked outcomes of cardiothoracic surgery programs across the United States and Canada. The star rating is calculated using a combination of quality measures for specific procedures performed by an STS Adult Cardiac Surgery Database participant.

Approximately 20% of participants receive the three-star rating for isolated CABG surgery. The latest analysis of data for CABG surgery covers a 3-year period, from July 2018 to June 2021, and includes 3,800 participants.

“The Society of Thoracic Surgeons congratulates STS National Database participants who have received three-star ratings,” said David M. Shahian, MD, chair of the Task Force on Quality Measurement. “Participation in the Database and public reporting demonstrates a commitment to quality improvement in health care delivery and helps provide patients and their families with meaningful information to help them make informed decisions about health care.”

The STS National Database was established in 1989 as an initiative for quality improvement and patient safety among cardiothoracic surgeons. The Database includes four components: the Adult Cardiac Surgery Database (ACSD), the Congenital Heart Surgery Database (CHSD), the General Thoracic Surgery Database (GTSD), and the mechanical circulatory support database (Intermacs). The STS ACSD houses approximately 6.9 million surgical records and gathers information from more than 3,800 participating physicians, including surgeons and anesthesiologists from more than

90% of groups that perform heart surgery in the US. STS public reporting online enables STS ACSD participants to voluntarily report to each other and the public their heart surgery scores and star ratings.

### About STS

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) is a not-for-profit organization that represents more than 7,600 surgeons, researchers, and allied health care professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lung, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest. The Society's mission is to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research, and advocacy.