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**Dominican Hospital Heart Failure Readmission Rates Among Lowest Nationwide**

*Becker's Hospital Review notes Dominican's 18.8 percent readmission rate is well below average*

**SANTA CRUZ, Calif. (July 24, 2014)** – Readmission rates for heart failure patients at Dignity Health Dominican Hospital are among the lowest in the nation, according to Becker's Hospital Review.

The publication listed Dominican as one of only 47 hospitals in the country with a 30-day heart failure readmission rate at or below 19 percent. The national average is 23 percent. A culture of patient education and empowerment at Dominican has led to the hospital's 18.8 percent readmission rate.

"Care for our heart failure patients doesn't end when they are discharged," said Dr. Jay Johnson, Dominican Hospital Cardiologist and Chief of Staff. "Through education about medication and symptom management, and post-discharge care such as follow-up phone calls and nutritional counseling, our patients are more adequately prepared to manage their condition at home."

Heart failure is a slow, progressive disease that is often diagnosed when a patient is admitted to the hospital for an unrelated reason. A patient's overall well-being is improved drastically when they maintain a close relationship with a clinical partner, and are given the tools and education needed to take charge of their own care.

**About Dominican Hospital**

Dignity Health Dominican Hospital has been caring for the Santa Cruz County community for more than 70 years. Dominican offers emergency services and is a Certified Stroke Center and Chest Pain Center. Dominican's services include the only comprehensive Cancer Center in Santa Cruz County, a Total Joint Replacement program, and the hospital is a leading provider of neurological services. Dominican regularly receives 'A' grades for hospital safety from Leapfrog Group, and has received national recognition for superior safety and quality from Healthgrades, a leading provider of comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals. Dominican also has received several awards for environmental excellence.

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