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Ascension Sacred Heart named one of the nation's best maternity hospitals

PENSACOLA, Fla. (Dec. 15, 2021) – Ascension Sacred Heart in Pensacola has been named as one of the nation's Best Hospitals for Maternity by U.S. News & World Report.

U.S. News rated how well hospitals perform in C-section rates, newborn complication rates, breast milk feeding rates, early elective delivery rates and if a hospital offers vaginal birth after cesarean.

"Hospitals that performed well had fewer newborn complications, fewer early deliveries and fewer C-sections compared to other hospitals across the nation. Out of 2,700 hospitals nationwide that offer maternity services, we identified 237 that earned recognition among the Best Hospitals for Maternity," said Ben Harder, managing editor and chief of health analysis at U.S. News & World Report.

U.S. News' evaluation also included a variety of relevant information on hospital services and amenities, like private rooms and availability of child birthing classes.

"This award is a testament to the skills and commitment of our entire team of obstetricians, midwives, maternal fetal medicine specialists and the nurses in our women's services," said Pam Brouder, vice president of patient care for children's and women's services at Ascension Sacred Heart. "We are proud to serve as the region's preferred maternity center and to share the hope and joy of families."

The hospital expects to deliver approximately 4,500 babies this year. While the new Best Hospitals maternity ranking focuses on uncomplicated pregnancies, Ascension Sacred Heart's Maternity Center also serves as Northwest Florida's regional referral center for women with high-risk pregnancies.

This is the first time that U.S. News has published a list of Best Hospitals for Maternity. For more information, visit <https://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/hospital-ratings/maternity>.

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About Ascension Sacred Heart

Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast includes Ascension Sacred Heart based in Pensacola, Ascension Providence in Mobile, Ala., and Ascension St. Vincent's based in Jacksonville, Florida. Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast operates nine hospitals and more than 100 other sites of care, employing more than 13,000 associates. Across the region, Ascension Providence, Ascension Sacred Heart and Ascension St. Vincent's have served North Florida and South Alabama communities for more than 165 years. In fiscal year 2020, Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast provided more than \$237 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty.

Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the U.S., Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2020, Ascension provided \$2.4 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Ascension includes more than 150,000 associates and 40,000 aligned providers. The national health system operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 142 hospitals and more than 40 senior living facilities – in 19 states and the District of Columbia, while providing a variety of services including clinical and network services, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, facilities management, risk management, and contracting through Ascension's own group purchasing organization. Visit www.ascension.org.

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