



**HALIFAX
HEALTH**

Media Contact:
Salina Wang
Public Relations Manager
Halifax Health
salina.wang@halifax.org
(O) 386.947.4682

PRESS RELEASE

EAST COAST BARIATRICS AT HALIFAX HEALTH RECOGNIZED FOR HIGH-QUALITY CARE IN BARIATRIC SURGERY

Program designated as Center of Excellence

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (June 14, 2010) – East Coast Bariatrics at Halifax Health announced today that it has been named an American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence®. This designation recognizes surgical programs with a demonstrated track record of favorable outcomes in bariatric surgery.

“We have a team of professionals dedicated to providing the best care and resources for our patients,” said Joel Sebastien, MD, Director, East Coast Bariatrics. “These are life-changing procedures that require long term support. Our community has a tremendous asset in the team here at Halifax Health.”

Dr. Sebastien has performed more than 400 bariatric procedures including gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy and LapBand.

East Coast Bariatrics’ long term comprehensive approach to successful weight loss includes multidisciplinary support from physicians, dietitian, exercise physiologist, mental health professionals and support groups.

“Helping people change their habits for life is crucial to their success,” said Tami Salyerds, Program Coordinator at East Coast Bariatrics. “Surgery is a tool to help people get where they need to be to become healthy. It’s a daily struggle and getting through it depends on using what you’ve learned and lifestyle changes you make.”

To earn a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence designation, East Coast Bariatrics underwent a series of site inspections during which all aspects of the program’s surgical processes were closely examined and data on health outcomes was collected. Halifax Health and other centers receiving the Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence designation also agree to continue to share information on clinical pathways, protocols and outcomes data.

Faced with clinical evidence that the most experienced and best-run bariatric surgery programs have by far the lowest rates of complications, the ASMBS Bariatric Surgery Centers of Excellence program was created to recognize bariatric surgery centers that perform well and to help surgeons and hospitals continue to improve the quality and safety of care provided.

Surgical Review Corporation (SRC), an organization dedicated to pursuing surgical excellence, formulates and establishes the rigorous standards with which East Coast Bariatrics and other Bariatric Surgery Centers of Excellence must comply, thoroughly inspects and evaluates each candidate for designation, and upon review recommends approval of designation for those physicians and facilities whose practices and outcomes meet the stringent demands set forth by SRC for ASMBS.

Obesity has become a significant national health issue, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting that 66 percent of all US adults are overweight or obese. Morbid obesity is closely correlated with a number of serious conditions that severely undermine the health of overweight patients, including heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.

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About Halifax Health

Building on an 80-year history of exceptional medical diagnostic and treatment services in East Central Florida, Halifax Health is ranked among the top 5% of all hospitals in the nation for clinical outcomes. Within an expanding network of specialized healthcare services at Halifax Health is a tertiary hospital, community hospital, psychiatric services, a cancer treatment center with four outreach locations, the area's largest hospice, and Florida's largest Emergency Department at the newly opened France Tower at Halifax Medical Center. Halifax Health offers the area's only Level II Trauma Center, Comprehensive Stroke Center, Neonatal and Pediatric Intensive Care Units, Pediatric Emergency Department, and Child and Adolescent Behavioral Services. Widely recognized for its outstanding medical staff and leading-edge technology, Halifax Health consistently receives top statewide and national ratings for its specialties, including orthopedics, spinal surgery, stroke services, vascular services, and cardiology. In 2009, the organization was also ranked #3 among the Top 100 Companies for Working Families (*Orlando Sentinel*). Halifax Health is a legislatively-chartered taxing organization, governed by a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor of Florida.

About American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) is the largest society for this specialty in the world. Founded in 1983, foremost American surgeons have formed the society's leadership and have established an excellent organization with educational and support programs for surgeons and allied health professionals. The purpose of the society is to advance the art and science of bariatric surgery by continued encouragement of its members to: pursue investigations in both the clinic and the laboratory; interchange ideas, information and experience pertaining to bariatric surgery; promote guidelines for ethical patient selection and care; develop educational programs for physicians, paramedical persons, and lay people; and promote outcome studies and quality assurance. For more information about ASMBS, go to ASMBS.org.

About Surgical Review Corporation

Surgical Review Corporation (SRC) is an independent, non-profit organization governed by industry stakeholders and dedicated to advancing the safety, efficacy and efficiency of bariatric and metabolic surgical care worldwide. To accelerate best practices development for the treatment of morbid obesity and its associated conditions, SRC launched center of excellence programs for bariatric surgery and developed the Bariatric Outcomes Longitudinal Database (BOLD). SRC has already designated nearly 650 surgeons as well as more than 350 hospitals and freestanding outpatient facilities, and BOLD is now the world's largest repository of clinical bariatric surgery patient data. For more information, visit surgicalreview.org.

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