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# Progress Notes

METHODIST HEALTH SYSTEM MEDICAL STAFF NEWS



## Culture of Safety survey proves High Reliability journey is succeeding

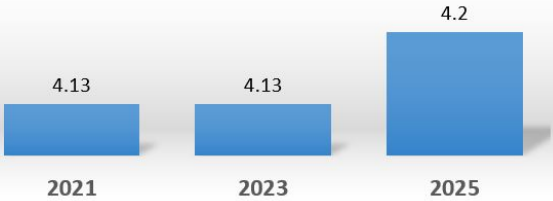


**Martin L. Koonsman,**  
MD, FACS, CPE  
Chief Medical Officer

Safety Culture is the product of individual and group values, attitudes, competencies, and behaviors that impact the commitment and ability to provide a safety environment for team members and patients.

We know that our safety culture and Care Commitments are what set us apart from other healthcare organizations because we set the highest standards to deliver safety and effective healthcare to the patients we serve and be a shining example of a High Reliability Organization (HRO).

### Culture of Safety



**2025: Methodist is at the 82nd percentile, with a rating of 4.2 out of 5.**

It is only due to your dedication and engagement that we saw such incredible results in our recent Culture of Safety survey.



**Click HERE to read the RISE newsletter**

### Communication between physicians/providers, nurses, and other medical personnel is good within Methodist



**2025: Methodist is at the 83rd percentile, with a rating of 4.02 out of 5.**

This question was one of the highest ranked items answered by over 9,000 employees (86% response rate) across Methodist Health System and addresses the dynamic relationship between providers and employees based on collaboration and respect.

### Senior management provides a work climate that promotes patient safety



**2025: Methodist exceeded our long-term RISE goal to reach the 75th percentile.**

## Setting the Standard



Methodist Richardson

## Premier Inc. ranks hospital 13th among Top 100 Hospitals in U.S.

Methodist Richardson is honored to have received Premier Inc.'s Top 100 Hospitals award. The national ranking is based on an objective, quantitative analysis of public data.

The primary purpose of Premier's program is to inspire hospitals to pursue higher performance and deliver added value to patients and communities.

"Our team couldn't be more proud to have earned this distinction," said Methodist Richardson President **Ken Hutchenrider**, FACHE. "This ranking reflects the dedication of our physicians and staff to be the best we can be on a day-to-day basis to serve our communities."

Methodist Richardson achieved the overall ranking of #13 in the category of large community hospitals.

Methodist Richardson

## Pancreatic cancer care wins high praise as a Center of Excellence

The National Pancreas Foundation has recognized Methodist Richardson Medical Center as a Center of Excellence for pancreatic cancer care.

A rigorous review determined that Methodist Richardson emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of pancreatic cancer, treating the "whole patient" with a focus on the best possible outcomes and an improved quality of life.

"This recognition is a testimony to our approach to treat every pancreatic cancer case as unique," said **D. Rohan Jeyarajah**, MD, FACS, director of gastrointestinal services.

An approved NPF Center meets criteria that include having the required expert physician specialties such as gastroenterologists, pancreas surgeons, and interventional radiologists, along with more patient-focused programs such as a pain management services and psychosocial support.



Methodist Charlton

## Orthopedics team wins Blue ribbon

Methodist Charlton has been designated as a Blue Distinction Center of Care for Knee and Hip Replacement by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas.

This mark of excellence reflects the highest standards in patient safety, surgical outcomes, and clinical care, and would not be possible without the physicians and orthopedic surgeons on the medical staff, as well as the nurses, physical therapists, and the entire clinical team who work tirelessly to restore mobility and quality of life to patients.

Their commitment to evidence-based practices, collaborative care, and exceptional outcomes is why patients trust us—and why our hospital continues to stand out across Texas," Methodist Charlton President Michael Stewart said. "Together, we are setting the standard for orthopedic care."



Methodist Midlothian

## Nursing on Pathway to Excellence

Methodist Midlothian has been awarded the prestigious Pathway to Excellence designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) — a national recognition of our commitment to creating a positive, supportive environment where nurses thrive and patients receive exceptional care.

The designation reflects our strong culture of collaboration, shared decision-making, and nurse empowerment — factors that contribute to higher satisfaction, lower turnover, and better outcomes.

"This designation is a powerful reflection of the compassion, professionalism, and excellence that our nurses bring to our patients and community each day," said **Brooks Williams**, MSN, RN, CENP, Vice President of Nursing and Chief Nursing Officer. "Being named a Pathway to Excellence organization is not just a badge of honor — it affirms our commitment to supporting our nurses and creating an environment where they can flourish."





## Cardiology team gets Gold Seal

Methodist Southlake Medical Center has earned a Gold Seal of Approval accreditation from The Joint Commission as a Primary Heart Attack Center, demonstrating its commitment to providing safe and quality patient care and continuous compliance with the national accrediting organization's rigorous performance standards.

"Achieving this certification just under a year and a half of starting our heart attack program validates the commitment and dedication of the entire hospital for this community," said hospital President **Benson Chacko**, FACHE. "This is another step in our pursuit to become the trusted provider of choice in our community."

The program underwent a demanding onsite review in May 2025, when a representative from The Joint Commission assessed the hospital's compliance with national standards for heart attack care, including emergency response, cardiac catheterization laboratory services and inpatient treatment. Methodist Southlake has provided 24/7 coverage for patients with severe heart attacks since February 2024, a must for this accreditation.

"This certification reflects our team's commitment to delivering rapid, evidence-based, high-quality care," said **Anas Alomar**, MD, cardiologist on the medical staff. "For our community, it offers peace of mind knowing that expert, lifesaving treatment is available close to home when every second counts."



## Lab staff earns CAP accreditation

The Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists has awarded accreditation to Methodist Southlake Medical Center based on results of a recent on-site inspection. Recognized for rigorous and robust standards, CAP accreditation elevates quality and mitigates risk, an important way that laboratories can contribute to improved patient outcomes.

During the accreditation process, inspectors examine the laboratory's records and quality control of procedures. CAP inspectors also examine laboratory staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and record, and overall management. These reviews help verify activities and reflect the most recent best practices.

"CAP accreditation is often referred to as the 'gold standard' for laboratory performance assessment," said Lab Manager **Amanda Clayton**, MHA, MLS. "The end goal is always high quality, patient focused care and being a part of this program helps achieve that goal."

Methodist Southlake is one of more than 8,000 CAP-accredited facilities worldwide. The facility's director, **Mauricio Salicru**, MD, pathologist on the medical staff, was advised of this global recognition and congratulated for the excellence of the services being provided.

"Achieving accreditation from the College of American Pathologists is a significant milestone for our hospital and reflects our commitment to quality, accuracy, and patient safety," said Methodist Southlake **President Benson Chacko**, FACHE. "This recognition underscores the exceptional work of our laboratory team and their dedication to the highest standards of patient care."

# Built for Success

## Board blesses \$24.8M ED project

The Methodist Health System Board of Directors recently approved a \$24.8 million investment to support Methodist Midlothian's continued growth and capacity to meet rising patient volumes in Ellis County.

The project includes an 8,800-square-foot emergency department expansion that will add 16 additional exam rooms and another dedicated trauma room. It also features a new CT imaging suite adjacent to the ED, a staff breakroom, refreshed EMS lounge, and expanded parking to support patient flow and EMS access.

Additionally, the remaining 15 inpatient rooms on the hospital's Fifth Floor will be completed, increasing available beds and supporting timely admissions from the ED and procedural areas.



## OR expansion scores a perfect 10

Methodist Mansfield is proud to announce the expansion of its surgical capacity enhancing the hospital's ability to care for more complex trauma and neurology cases.

Operating Room 10 came online in late July, a new addition that enables the hospital to serve more patients more efficiently, while maintaining the high standard of care expected by physicians and patients. With the new OR, Methodist Mansfield now has spaces dedicated to general surgeries, cardiovascular procedures, trauma surgeries, neuro surgeries, OB-GYN care, and orthopedics.

In addition to expanding the hospital's surgical capabilities, Methodist Mansfield is also modernizing its suite of imaging technology to better support advanced diagnostics and treatment planning.

# Equipped to Care



Methodist Dallas

## Nanoparticles a leap forward for lung imaging

Methodist Dallas is the first hospital in Texas to fully implement the Technegas advanced imaging method to improve clinical outcomes for patients.

Technegas uses ultrafine nanoparticles, inhaled by a patient, to help the radiologist increase the accuracy in diagnosing pulmonary embolism.

The new tool creates a higher quality scan that better distributes diagnostic particles throughout the lungs, striving to eliminate inconclusive results. This technique can be used for any patient showing symptoms or having history of a pulmonary embolism and pulmonary hypertension, but it's especially valuable for patients with a counter-indication to receiving intravenous contrast for CT imaging.

"We are proud to provide a new wave of diagnostics to our North Texas community," said Alexandru Bageac, MD, department chair of radiology at Methodist Dallas. "This advancement will help our patients' outcomes thanks to higher quality imaging and more focused treatments."



Methodist Dallas

## Clinical trial paves way for Alfapump approval

The Liver Institute and Methodist Health System Clinical Research Institute played a pivotal role in the FDA's approval of a lifesaving device for patients with end-stage liver disease.

The Alfapump is a groundbreaking, fully implantable, and wirelessly charged system that continuously transfers ascites from the abdominal cavity to the bladder, where the body naturally expels it. Its clinical efficacy has been recognized by the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), which has included the Alfapump in its clinical practice guidelines since 2018.

Methodist is proud to be among only six sites in the U.S., alongside the Mayo Clinic and Mount Sinai, selected to administer this treatment to patients as part of a trial spearheaded by **Mangesh Pagadala**, MD, transplant hepatologist on the medical staff.



# Medical Milestones



Methodist Dallas

## OR teams see busiest month ever

The operating rooms at Methodist Dallas marked their busiest month in the hospital's history, with 937 cases in April 2025.

"Every single member of our staff and medical staff is in continuous pursuit of providing the highest quality of care to all of our patients," said Methodist Dallas President **John Phillips**, FACHE. "I'm honored to be part of this team."

Phillips see the milestone as a testament to the culture at Methodist Dallas.

"It means more patients and their families are seeing our physicians and staff as the absolute best in their field," he said.

Methodist Celina

## Staff achieves lifesaving 'firsts'

With Methodist Celina Medical Center's doors now open for nearly five months, the hospital has reached a number of important clinical milestone "firsts" that reflect both the hospital's growing capabilities and its commitment to delivering high-quality care close to home. From treating the first stroke to performing the first hip fracture repair, each moment has marked a meaningful step in building a full-service medical center for the Celina community.

One especially significant milestone came when the Methodist Celina cath lab team, alongside **Ammar Al Akshar**, MD, interventional cardiologist on the medical staff, successfully performed the hospital's first pulmonary embolism removal. Utilizing advanced technology, the team rapidly removed a blood clot from the patient's lungs, immediately restoring circulation.

Thanks to their swift action and expert care, not only was a life saved, but the patient's healing and recovery time was significantly shortened.



# Epic Strides



# New dashboards to give providers a customized experience in Epic

The Clinical Data Management team at Methodist Health System will be creating and developing customized dashboards within the Epic environment to use in the Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluations (OPPE) and Focused Professional Practice Evaluations (FPPE).

These dashboards will produce provider-specific information and will replace the existing Premier tool currently being used. Providers can be assured that we will replace the Premier tool gradually after collecting feedback from a pilot launch in select departments.

A few key points to this process:

- **Identify Stakeholder Requirements:** Collaborate with medical staff, quality, and IT teams to define essential metrics for OPPE/FPPE
- **Determine Dashboard Scope:** Establish whether dashboards will support enterprise-wide views, departmental, or individual provider-specific insights
- **Map Required Data Elements:** Pinpoint data sources within Epic (e.g., Clarity, Caboodle, SlicerDicer) including clinical outcomes, documentation compliance, utilization patterns, and patient safety indicators.
- **Leverage Epic Reporting Tools:** Use Radar Dashboards for embedding relevant widgets and real-time provider data.

## ADVANCING EPIC

UPDATES FROM HEALTH INFORMATICS



Providers can expect these new dashboards to give them individualized performance metrics while protecting peer confidentiality.

The platform will also apply standardized metrics, including Joint Commission and credentialing-required measures such as case volume, outcomes, documentation timeliness, and adverse event rates.

What's more, the Health Informatics team will validate test data accuracy and functionality with key stakeholders to confirm integrity and relevance of metrics.

After the pilot launch, several steps will follow:

- Collect feedback and refine dashboard usability and utility
- Develop transition plan including stakeholder communications and user training sessions
- Align dashboard reporting timelines with OPPE/FPPE cycles and reappointment reviews

## Epic Trainers are here, whenever there's a question — or a suggestion

The Epic Training team is always available to answer your questions and provide guidance on how to use Epic more efficiently.

We have a trainer posted at each campus to help with anything you may want to know about Epic, including taking your suggestions about how to improve clinical workflows in Epic for all physicians.

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