U.S. News & World Report has named Maine Medical Center (MMC) the best hospital in Maine for 2019-2020. This marks seven years in a row that MMC has been named a “Best Regional Hospital.”

MMC’s gynecology program tied for #34 in the nation, and the hospital earned a “high performing” ranking in three additional specialties and all nine common procedures and conditions included in the annual survey of U.S. hospitals.

“This recognition reflects the hard work our team puts in every day to ensure patients receive the best possible care close to home,” said MMC President Jeff Sanders. “I want to thank our colleagues for continuing to support our vision of working together so our communities are the healthiest in America.”

For the 2019-20 ratings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 medical centers nationwide in 16 specialties and nine procedures and conditions. With a ranking of #34 in gynecology, MMC is among the 4 percent of hospitals that are nationally ranked in at least one specialty.

The hospital also earned a “high performing” rating in the specialties of gastroenterology & GI surgery, pulmonology & lung surgery and urology, as well as in all nine common procedures and conditions surveyed:

- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair
- Aortic Valve Surgery
- Colon Cancer Surgery
- Heart Bypass Surgery
- Congestive Heart Failure
- Hip Replacement
- Knee Replacement
- Lung Cancer Surgery
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

“High performing” is the highest rating U.S. News awards, a reflection that the hospital ranks in the top 10 percent nationwide for that specialty or condition, as measured by factors such as patient outcomes. Fewer than one third of all hospitals received any high-performing rating, and only 57 of the 4,500 hospitals surveyed earned this rating in all nine procedures and conditions.
MMC has installed a MedSafe Drug Disposal unit outside MMC’s retail pharmacy on the ground floor of the East Tower to provide a safe, secure, anonymous and environmentally friendly way for colleagues and patients to dispose of expired or otherwise unwanted medications. Secure disposal systems like these have been shown to help prevent the abuse of prescription medication by getting these drugs out of people’s homes.

The boxes operate similarly to the mailboxes you might find outside the post office, with a secure drop slot where people can place their medications. The MedSafe units are not for liquids, sharps or illegal drugs, including marijuana.

There is a sharps container located next to the MedSafe units.

Richard E Royal, MD, FACS has joined Maine Medical Partners – Surgical Care, in the Division of Surgical Oncology. He joins us from the MD Anderson Cancer Center where he was a tenured Professor in Surgery. Prior to that, he was a Senior Investigator at the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Royal received his medical degree from Oregon Health Sciences University, School of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of Maryland. He went on to complete several fellowships including two fellowships in Surgical Oncology, at the MD Anderson Cancer Center and the National Cancer Institute.

His clinical interests include the care of patients with melanoma and skin cancers, as well as patients with rare GI tumors including peritoneal disease. He is an expert in the delivery of regional therapy for cancer including limb perfusion, liver perfusion and HIPEC. He has extensive research in the immunotherapy of melanoma and pancreatic cancer and has been involved in promoting the interdisciplinary care of patients at a national level.

Rena Paris, MD, has joined Maine Medical Center’s Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Paris just completed her residency here at MMC where she served as Chief Resident of Inpatient Psychiatry.

She received her medical degree from Albany Medical College in NY. Dr. Paris’ clinical interests include neuropsychiatry, geriatrics and psychotic disorders.

Outside of work, she enjoys travel, literature and theater, and is a Steelers fan.

MMC Installs Drug Disposal Unit For Unwanted Medication