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## For Sarasota Memorial Hospital, superlative in area of geriatrics

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Sarasota Memorial Hospital has been named among the best health care centers in the nation for the treatment of seniors, the third consecutive year it has received the superlative ranking.

U.S. News & World Report's annual "best hospitals" ranking, in its 20th year and considered one of the top measurements of care in 16 various specialties, listed Sarasota Memorial as 37th on a list of 50 for geriatric care.

The hospital had been ranked 43rd in 2008. Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, in Los Angeles, was ranked tops this year.

More than half of the roughly 103,000 patients Sarasota Memorial treats annually are 65 or older, hospital data shows.

"Sarasota Memorial has put together an extraordinary group of physicians and taken numerous steps in quality improvements, steps that are ahead of the nation," said Dr. Bruce Robinson, a board certified geriatrician and medical director of the hospital's geriatric services.

The magazine considered reputation; a hospital's ability to keep patients alive; how well it minimized harm to patients; and nurse staffing, technology and other patient care-related information in compiling its rankings.

Sarasota Memorial is one of six Florida hospitals recognized for geriatric care. The others were Shands Healthcare at the University of Florida, Gainesville; Mount Sinai Medical Center, in Miami Beach; Jackson Memorial Hospital at the University Of



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Dr. Bruce Robinson heads the Memory Disorder Clinic at Sarasota Memorial. The hospital has won praise for its treatment of seniors for a third year in a row.

Miami; the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville; and Tampa General.

Robinson said Sarasota Memorial's electronic record-keeping, focus on patient safety and medical library, in particular, make the hospital stand out when treating seniors.

Sarasota Memorial also maintains a memory disorder center for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease, and is among only 5 percent of U.S. hospitals designated by an American Nurses Association group as a "magnet" hospital for nursing excellence.

"We've learned to create systems that make it harder for individual mistakes to result in bad patient outcomes," Robinson said.

In all, the magazine and North Carolina-based research firm RTI International analyzed 4,861 hospitals nationwide and determined just 174 met criteria to be on their list.

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