

Hospital celebrates birthday

Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak earns high marks in first year

By Jo-an Holstein

Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak, which opened last November, has wrapped up its inaugural year with plenty to celebrate.

“Our goal is to provide excellent care and give every patient and family a quality, memorable experience. The people we serve tell us we’re meeting and exceeding that goal,” said Jean Knoedler, hospital administrator.

Knoedler said 91 percent of Thompson Peak patients say they are likely to recommend the hospital to others, placing Thompson Peak in the top 14 percent of hospitals nationally for patient satisfaction.

Nearby care

One of those patients is Elizabeth Austad, who was thankful the hospital was nearby when she needed an emergency room and eventually gallbladder surgery.

“The doctors and the care were excellent,” she said. “Everyone was very friendly and helpful. I didn’t have to ask for anything.”

Knoedler attributes Scottsdale



Walid Alami, MD, uses a diamond-coated device to clear a blocked artery, saving the patient’s hand (see box on P. 2). The procedure was the first of its kind in North America.

Healthcare Thompson Peak’s success to its 400-plus staff members and medical staff of 800 local physicians who are committed to providing excellent healthcare.

For example, Gavin Levinthal, MD, is one of Thompson Peak’s board-certified gastrointestinal and liver specialists available 24/7 — coverage

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Thompson Peak

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he says many hospitals don't have.

"The hospital is running very well and providing quality healthcare. The nurses are excellent and the patient care is outstanding," Dr. Levinthal said.

Similarly, Craig Norquist, MD, is a board-certified emergency physician who sees patients ranging from two-week-old infants to those in their 90s in Thompson Peak's ER.

"Patients tell us it's great to have a close-by hospital where they can get expert care and often without a wait," said Dr. Norquist, medical director of the hospital's emergency department.

Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak is poised to serve more patients as they discover the hospital's location and many capabilities, Dr. Levinthal said. Located north of Loop 101, Thompson

Peak is near the northeast corner of Scottsdale Road and Thompson Peak Parkway in the Grayhawk area.

Indeed, growth and exciting developments are ahead for the 64-bed hospital, which specializes in caring for medical and surgical patients and offers six high-tech operating rooms, a completely equipped intensive care unit and a world-class emergency department.

The hospital continues to serve an increasing number of patients needing orthopedic or urological surgery, as well as general surgery.

"Thompson Peak's focus is to continue to add services to provide excellent care that is personalized to each person entering our doors," Knoedler said.

Spinning diamonds save patient's hand

For the first time in North America, a doctor at Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak recently used technology that clears artery blockages in the arm.

A wheelchair-bound patient with peripheral arterial disease (PAD) was in danger of losing his hand due to a blocked artery. Using a tiny diamond-coated device to sand away plaque while preserving healthy arterial wall tissue, Walid Alami, MD, was able to save the patient's hand.

Without the Diamondback Orbital Atherectomy System, patients often are faced with one option — amputation,

Dr. Alami said. According to the National Institutes of Health, some 12 million Americans are affected by PAD, resulting in more than 160,000 limb amputations annually.

"Existing devices have rarely been able to penetrate and effectively remove the 'brick wall' of calcium, which has limited physicians' ability to treat a number of patients," Dr. Alami said. "Being the first in North America to use this technology on an arm adds another layer of advanced expertise and expands our capabilities at Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak."