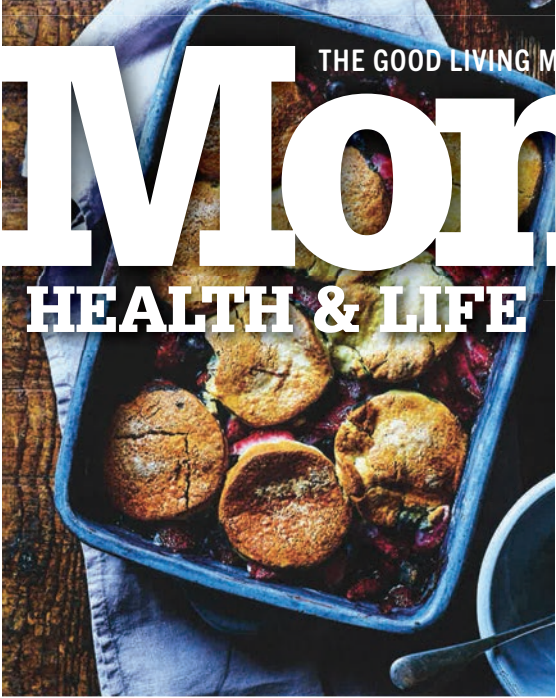


THE GOOD LIVING MAGAZINE FROM MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER

# Monmouth

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## HAPPY & HEALTHY IN 2020



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{ IN GOOD HEALTH }



# A PERFECT 10

Monmouth Medical Center earns highest safety rating for 10th straight period.

**Monmouth Medical Center** (MMC) was awarded an “A” Hospital Safety Score rating by The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit run by employers and other large purchasers of health benefits. The Long Branch facility is the only hospital in the region to receive the organization’s “A” Hospital Safety Score for 10 consecutive rating periods.

“We are honored to be recognized and understand our responsibility and dedication to our continued journey of high reliability and outcomes for our patients and their families,” says Eric Carney, president and chief executive officer of Monmouth Medical Center. “We understand that what matters most to our patients is safe, effective care, and that’s why we have made a commitment to accreditation and to positive outcomes through evidence-based care processes.”

Updated in spring and fall, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only rating focused exclusively on hospital safety. Its A, B, C, D or F letter grades are an easy way for consumers to choose the safest hospital at which to seek care and they have quickly become the gold standard measure of patient safety. Developed under the guidance of a Blue-Ribbon National Expert Panel, the Safety Grade assigns letter grades based on a hospital’s performance in preventing medical errors,

infections and other harms.

One of 49 birthing hospitals in New Jersey, MMC also was recognized by the Leapfrog Group for fully meeting its quality and safety standards on three key maternity metrics: Cesarean section, episiotomy and early elective delivery rates. Only eight hospitals in New Jersey achieved this accomplishment. MMC delivers nearly 6,000 babies annually, making it the largest birthing hospital in Monmouth and Ocean counties.

The Leapfrog Group is a national watchdog organization focused on healthcare safety and quality. Their new report highlights that only 20 percent of hospitals nationwide fully meet Leapfrog standards on all three of these critical maternity measures.

An RWJBarnabas Health facility, MMC is part of a system wide Obstetric Collaborative Group formed to better the quality and safety of care delivered to New Jersey women.

“We are proud to be leaders in that initiative,” says Robert Graebe, M.D., chairman and program director of Obstetrics and Gynecology. “Monmouth Medical Center has built one of the safest obstetrical and gynecologic services in New Jersey, and continues to expand and upgrade its facility to match its commitment to quality care and patient safety.”



**For more information** on The Leapfrog Group and the fall 2019 scores, visit [hospitalsafetyscore.org](http://hospitalsafetyscore.org).



Pictured from right: David Sharon, M.D., medical director of the Leon Hess Cancer Center, Annette Terzo, NP-C, Monmouth Hematology Oncology Associates; and oncology nurse Eileen McGarry RN, OCN/CBCN

# The Best Team for Cancer Treatment

Leon Hess Cancer Center fêted for cutting-edge patient care, services and treatment options.

**Monmouth Medical Center (MMC)** has once again successfully completed a rigorous on-site survey for its comprehensive cancer program.

In September, the hospital's Leon Hess Cancer Center achieved another three-year accreditation from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (ACoS CoC) with commendations on several of the survey standards. The Leon Hess Cancer Center is the only facility in Monmouth County to be designated by the ACoS CoC as an Academic Comprehensive Cancer Program.

This accreditation provides an assurance to patients that they will receive comprehensive care, including a full range of state-of-the-art services and a multidisciplinary approach to providing the best treatment options, says David Sharon,

M.D., medical director of the Leon Hess Cancer Center.

"We received four commendations in the areas of cancer registry education, oncology nursing care, and accuracy of data, and our participation," said Dr. Sharon, who notes that the surveyor provided great praise of the center's leadership. "Additionally, we were commended for our participation in the Rapid Quality Reporting System, a reporting and quality improvement tool created by the American College of Surgeons to provide real clinical time assessment of hospital level adherence to quality of cancer care measures."

The Leon Hess Cancer Center stands at the forefront of providing the most extensive array of highly advanced cancer services, delivered by a multidisciplinary team of specialists in a caring and sup-

portive environment. For decades, the hospital's leadership role in oncology services has been broadened through the ongoing expansion of state-of-the-art programs and technologies offered in all areas of cancer prevention, detection and treatment. The center at MMC brings together a host of specialists in a convenient setting to offer comprehensive cancer services.

And through the hospital's partnership with the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey—the state's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, a competitive designation awarded to only 48 centers nationwide—Leon Hess Cancer Center patients have access to the most advanced clinical trials and cancer treatment options close to home, adds Dr. Sharon.



**To learn more**, about the Leon Hess Cancer Center at Monmouth Medical Center, call 888.CANCERNJ.



# BETTER BARIATRIC CARE

Surgery Center  
receives national praise  
for patient safety  
and high-quality care.

Patients seeking surgical treatment for obesity and its related conditions have a high-quality choice for receiving care at a nationally accredited program that meets the highest standards for patient safety and quality in the greater Monmouth County area. The Bariatric Surgery Center at Monmouth Medical Center (MMC) has been reaccredited as a Comprehensive Center by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP), a joint Quality Program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS).

The MBSAQIP Standards—Optimal Resources for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery—ensure that metabolic and bariatric patients receive multidisciplinary medical care, which improves patient

outcomes and long-term success. MBSAQIP-Accredited centers offer pre- and postoperative care designed specifically for patients with obesity.

The MBSAQIP Comprehensive Center designation recognizes surgical programs with a demonstrated track record of exceptional patient outcomes in bariatric surgery. MMC is in its 20th year of performing bariatric surgery and has once again received the designation for the maximum three-year term, reserved for applicants who exceed the requirements for full approval. To earn a Center of Excellence classification, the medical center underwent a site inspection during which all aspects of the program's surgical processes were closely examined and data on health outcomes was collected.

"Our outstanding quality of care, low complication rate and high level of surgical experience distinguish our bariatric surgery program," says bariatric surgeon Frank Borao, M.D., FACS, FASMB, director of minimally invasive esophageal and gastric surgery.

According to the MBSAQIP, centers are given this designation if they "can demonstrate an ongoing commitment to excellence in the care of bariatric surgical patients at the highest levels of the medical staff."

MBSAQIP is the largest society for this specialty in the world. The vision of the society is to improve public health and well-being by lessening the burden of obesity and related diseases throughout the world.

Recognized as a serious disease that compromises quality of life and increases the risk of death, morbid obesity is characterized by individuals having a body mass index (BMI) greater than 40 which equates to about 80 pounds overweight for a female and 100 pounds overweight for a male. Severe obesity also can lead to life-threatening diseases including diabetes, hypertension and pulmonary compromise.

"Surgeons reviewed by MBSAQIP must have performed enough cases with successful outcomes to merit the designation," says Dr. Borao. "It is an honor to have our program recognized—it's proof we have stellar staff and surgeons in our facility."

To achieve MBSAQIP Center of Excellence designation, a facility must also show that they have a program that provides cross-functional team support to bariatric surgery patients.

In addition to bariatric surgery, MMC offers a multidisciplinary comprehensive program to weight loss, which was factored into the analysis by the MBSAQIP.

Led by experienced bariatric surgeons, MMC's bariatric surgery program provides a coordinated and supportive approach to the decision to pursue weight loss surgery. The program features extensive education and patient support before, during and after weight loss surgery.

"Monmouth Medical Center is the leader in minimally invasive surgery, was one of the first in New Jersey to perform laparoscopic gastric bypass and is among the highest experienced centers in the tri-state area," Dr. Borao says. "Monmouth offered the first Bariatric Surgery Center in the region, and our surgeons have vast experience and have compiled the lowest complication rate in New Jersey for bariatric surgery, and one of the lowest in the nation, at less than 1 percent. Because of their level of skill, Monmouth has been recognized as one of the most outstanding bariatric surgery centers in the state."



Members of the Bariatric Surgery Center multidisciplinary team at Monmouth Medical Center



To learn more about the bariatric surgery options offered at Monmouth Medical Center, or for a schedule of free new patient lectures, call 888.724.7123.

# STANDARD FOR EXCELLENCE

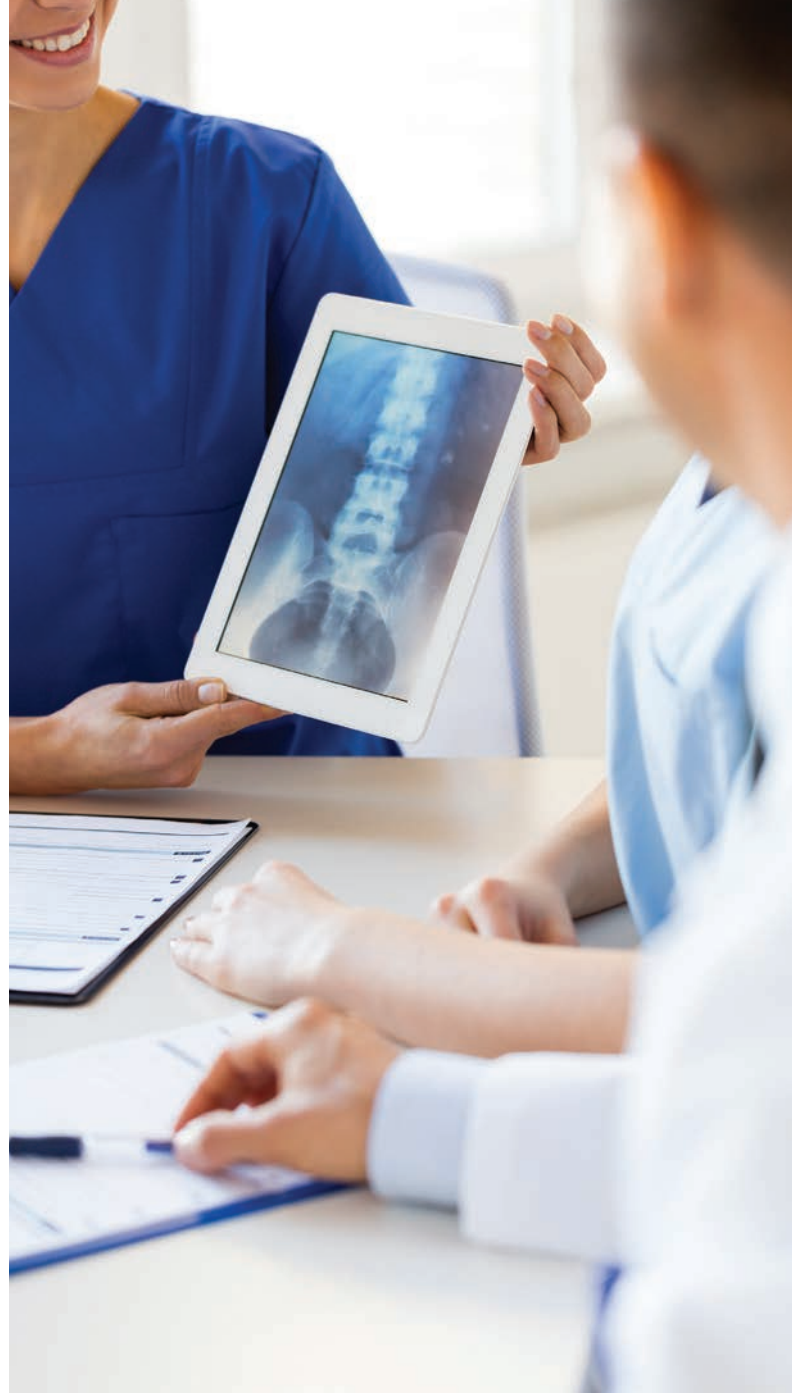
Monmouth Medical Center offers patients world-class care for joint and spine pain.

**The Joint Replacement and Spine Center** at Monmouth Medical Center provides top-notch care and treatment options to patients who have experienced pain and limitation of permanent and progressive damage to the hips, knees, shoulders and spine.

In fact, the hospital recently received reaccreditation through the Knee and Hip Replacement and Spine Surgery Certification of The Joint Commission's Disease-Specific Care Certification Program—a recognition of the program's commitment to excellence in providing care for joint replacement and spine surgery patients. Whether pain is the result of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, trauma or other joint or spine disorders, patients find life-changing relief under the care of MMC's highly experienced board-certified, fellowship-trained orthopedic and spine specialists.

"Our comprehensive, coordinated Joint Replacement Program and dedicated Spine Center deliver unparalleled expertise—led by surgeons who have performed thousands of joint replacement and spine procedures with the lowest infection rates and lowest complication rates outstanding outcomes," says spine surgeon Jason Cohen, M.D., chairman of Orthopedic Surgery at MMC. "Our numbers say it best, with the leading pain management and outstanding patient satisfaction scores in the state."


MMC offers individualized care plans for pain management and a designated inpatient unit that is staffed by nurses and therapists who specialize in treating spine and joint patients. Additionally, MMC's Joint and Spine Center coordinator serves as the patient's personal navigator and liaison with his or her orthopedic surgeon to coordinate care from the preoperative class through hospital stay and discharge.



As a leader in surgical services, MMC was the first hospital in the region to offer Robotic-Arm Assisted Joint Replacement Surgery and was the second healthcare facility in the state to offer a revolutionary GPS navigation platform providing the most accurate trajectory alignment in spine surgery.

"Combining the precision of advanced robotic systems such as these with the skills of our surgeons mean patients experience a better recovery and outcome, with a faster return to normal activities," Dr. Cohen says.

In addition to board-certified, fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeons with specialized training, MMC's joint replacement and spine team includes nurses, therapists and others specifically trained to care for those with orthopedic injuries, diseases or conditions.

 **For more information** about joint replacement or spine surgery, or to schedule a consultation with one of Monmouth Medical Center's orthopedic surgeons, call 888.724.7123.



# An Industry Leader

Monmouth's MRI units get "gold" for safe, cutting-edge imaging technology.

**Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)** units at Monmouth Medical Center (MMC) recently received accreditation from the American College of Radiology (ACR), an achievement recognized as the gold standard in medical imaging.

"The accreditation assures patients that Monmouth Medical Center's two MRIs are of the highest quality and that the hospital's Radiology Department offers the safest, most cutting-edge imaging technology," says Tom Piccoli, the hospital's chief medical physicist. He adds that the accreditation was approved

for a host of categories, including clinical image quality for the head, spine, body, knee and MRA (examines blood vessels), as well as phantom image quality.

"This accreditation is a very involved process and requires that we document all requirements for equipment, medical personnel and quality assurance," he says. "The ACR requires the physicist test each coil, including surface, body, breast, wrist, knee, etc., for 10 parameters each, which took at least three days for each unit, and our MRI technologist also had to meet the

requirements for each of the clinical images. On the full 22-page report on each unit from the ACR, there was not one recommendation for improvement on either the physics or clinical images."

In 2018, MMC introduced the most advanced MRI, providing patients with state-of-the-art technology that increases patient comfort, while helping radiologists and doctors receive more precise imaging through adjustable receiver coils. The scanner works faster than older MRI machines, and produces less noise. This technology is also

revolutionary because patients, who may have felt claustrophobic in older machines, can now enter the scanner feet first.

MMC's Radiology Department has always been a leader in the industry. In 2003, it received one of the first CT (computed tomography) scan accreditations from the ACR for safety and appropriate usage. The department was also among the first in Monmouth County to introduce both uterine fibroid embolization, an interventional radiology procedure that shrinks fibroid tumors by blocking their blood supply, and a nuclear medicine department, fully equipped with Gamma and Spect cameras and computer systems.

To learn more about advanced imaging capabilities at Monmouth Medical Center, call 732.923.6800.

Chief Medical Physicist Tom Piccoli, right, and MRI Technologist Nicholas DeMonte with the accreditation certificate from the American College of Radiation.



## CLARIFICATION

In "Experts In Epilepsy" published in the November 2019 issue of Monmouth Health & Life, the biography information for Aviva Bojko, M.D., should have read as follows:

**Aviva Bojko, M.D.**, is board certified in Neurology with special qualifications in Child Neurology and in Epilepsy. After receiving her medical education in Italy at the University of Rome La Sapienza, she completed an internship at the Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel, before coming to the United States. Once in the U.S., she completed a pediatric residency at The New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical College, followed by a residency in child neurology at The New York Hospital/Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center-Cornell University Medical College, and a fellowship in clinical neurophysiology at Montefiore Medical Center-Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Bojko is a member of the Israel Medical Association, the American Epilepsy Society and the American Academy of Neurology.