

OMC scores well

“Consumer Reports” ranks safest hospitals in state

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Oconee Medical Center ranks as one of the safest hospitals in South Carolina, according to a recent “Consumer Reports” study.

OMC ranked fifth in the state with a score of 59 above the national median, according to “Consumer Reports” study of cleanliness, infections, complications from surgeries and treatments, mortality, etc. The report ranked 1,159 hospitals in 44 states and was the first by the organization. The highest score in the nation was a 72.

“The progress we’re making and this recognition as one of the top five facilities in the state is encouraging,” said Reba Car-tee, vice president of quality and physician collaboration at OMC. “But, there is still a lot of work to be done.”

Bon Secours St. Francis, of Greenville, led the state and was one of the top-10 hospitals in the nation with a score of 69.

Some officials criticized the report, saying the facts surrounding each incident reported can vary and there is no true way to really know which hospital is the safest.

Other area hospitals and their ranking included: Baptist Easley Hospital, 52; and AnMed Health in Anderson, which had a 48. Both those hospitals questioned the accuracy of the “Consumer Reports” rating.

According to “Consumer Reports,” medical mistakes, hospital-acquired infections and medical errors claim about 180,000 lives each year and seriously injure another 1.4 million patients.

Cartee pointed out that a hospital stay can be made safer and more comfortable when communication with the patient is open.

“I was pleased ‘Consumer Reports’ included examples of what patients and their families can do in order to advocate for the delivery of safe and effective health care. . . we are promoting better communication among patients, family members and health care professionals from the point of admission,” she said. “We are working hard to ensure that patients receive the right care at the right time at the right place.”

Heather Goss, marketing manager for OMC, said the staff had not seen a breakdown of the rating from “Consumer Reports” and could not comment on specific areas where the facility rated high or low.

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