

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BOTHWELL REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER RECEIVES BARIATRIC SURGERY ‘CENTER OF EXCELLENCE’ RENEWAL**

SEDALIA, MO – Bothwell Regional Health Center recently was notified that its designation as a Center of Excellence for Bariatric Surgery was renewed by the [Surgical Review Corp.](#) and the [American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery](#) (ASMBS).

This is the second time Bothwell has been designated a “Center of Excellence” for bariatric surgery. The designation lasts three years and was first received in 2006. The program was developed and is led by Dr. Phillip Hornbostel.

The designation means the center has a greater opportunity to reach patients and confirms its reputation as a place for safe and effective bariatric surgeries. Bothwell had 249 bariatric surgery patients in 2008 and more than 1,200 since opening eight years ago. Patients travel to Bothwell’s bariatric center from throughout Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Iowa. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services require beneficiaries to use a “Center of Excellence” for bariatric surgeries.

“This essentially makes us a magnet for bariatric surgery,” Hornbostel said of the designation.

A reviewer from the Surgical Review Corp. visited Bothwell in the fall to survey equipment and procedures, inspect records and tour facilities. The requirements to achieve “Center of Excellence” status include ongoing education throughout all disciplines, performing more than 125 bariatric surgeries a year, reporting long-term outcomes and providing long-term support through a support group.

“This is truly, truly a team effort,” Hornbostel said.

Bothwell is among 378 hospitals and institutions nationwide – seven of which are located in Missouri — that have achieved the ASMBS “Center of Excellence” designation.

Bothwell’s Bariatric Center of Excellence performs predominately laparoscopic gastric bypass and some sleeve gastrectomy procedures.

“This is far and away the best treatment for patients with Type II diabetes with morbid obesity,” Hornbostel said of the procedures performed at the center.

The Bariatric Support Group meets at 5 p.m. the first Sunday of each month in the Bothwell Education Center. The group is open to every bariatric patient and the public, including prospective patients.

ASMBS, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to improving “public health and well being by lessening the burden of the disease of obesity and related diseases throughout the world,” according to its Web site. The Surgical Review Corp. administers the ASMBS “Center of Excellence” designations.

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Bothwell Regional Health Center is a 180-bed regional health center serving west-central Missouri with state-of-the-art technology and comprehensive health and wellness services including surgical, cancer, orthopedic, endovascular/cardiac, women's health, and therapy services. For more information on Bothwell Regional Health Center and its services, visit the Web site at [www.brhc.org](http://www.brhc.org).