

Immediate Release

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Christiana Care Health System Provides Free Knee Replacements as Part of Operation Walk USA 2014

(WILMINGTON, Del. – Dec. 4, 2014) [Christiana Care Health System](#)'s Department of Orthopaedic Surgery provided free knee replacements to two local patients this week as part of Operation Walk USA 2014.

Operation Walk USA 2014 is a collaborative effort between the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and participating hospitals and health systems, including Christiana Care. Through this effort, all aspects of treatment – surgery, hospitalization, and pre-and post-operative care – are provided at no cost to participating patients who cannot afford joint replacement surgery on their own.

"We partner with our patients in this effort to provide expert care so they can experience more active and productive lives," said Andrew Gelman D.O., the local physician leader for Operation Walk. "Alleviating the disabling arthritis in their knees will help them regain their mobility, return to employment and enjoyment of life."

As part of Operation Walk USA 2014, Steven Dellose, M.D. and James Rubano, M.D., both orthopaedic surgeons at Christiana Care, performed the surgeries at Christiana Care's Center for Advanced Joint Replacement, which is among the most advanced, comprehensive programs for hip and knee replacement in the country. The center performs more than 2,000 total hip and knee replacements annually, using the latest minimally invasive techniques, with clinical outcomes that are among the best in the nation. Annually, Christiana Care performs about 100 orthopaedic surgeries to uninsured patients free of charge.

Patients seen through Operation Walk suffer from arthritic disease, which limits the abilities of 52 million Americans and is the most common cause of disability in the United States, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The debilitating pain of end-stage hip or knee degenerative disease often makes working, or completing even the simplest of daily tasks, excruciatingly painful or impossible. Hip and knee replacement surgeries are the most cost-effective and successful of all orthopedic procedures.

Operation Walk USA began in 2011 following the tremendous success of Operation Walk, an international volunteer medical service organization that provides treatment for patients with arthritis and joint conditions throughout the world. To date, more than 6,500 patients have

received new knees and hips through the international Operation Walk, and nearly 500 patients through Operation Walk USA. This week, an estimated 120 patients nationwide will undergo free hip or knee replacements from 85 volunteer orthopaedic surgeons across the nation as part of Operation Walk USA 2014. Since 2010, Operation Walk USA knee and hip replacement surgeries and related care are valued at more than \$13.2 million.

Operation Walk USA 2014 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act compliant data will be transferred to the American Joint Replacement Registry, a national center for data collection and research on total hip and knee replacements.

For more information about Operation Walk USA 2014, visit www.opwalkusa.com.

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care providers, ranking as the 22nd leading hospital in the nation and 12th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services. Christiana Care is home to Delaware's only Level I trauma center, the highest capability center and the only one of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care also features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers the highest level of non-surgical care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/whoweare.

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