

the

CORAZON REPORT

A special briefing from your service line experts

Volume 17, Issue 2

Debunking Common Open Heart Surgery Myths

For nearly 20 years, Corazon has been the premier provider of implementation, assessment, and reengineering support for Open Heart Surgery (OHS) programs. Corazon often discovers that OHS programs needing assistance have delayed seeking support or advice due to common fallacies that drive the status quo. **In order to successfully pursue excellence, cardiovascular (CV) program leadership must work to educate leadership, staff, and physicians to put an end to belief in these following universal OHS myths:**



Myth #1 - OHS rates nationwide are declining and have been for a decade.

The Society for Thoracic Surgery (STS) – Adult Cardiac Surgery database revealed that OHS volumes stabilized after 2012, and **total OHS volumes have been increasing since 2013**. Surprisingly, isolated CABG procedures have also increased every year since 2013 according to the STS database.



Myth #2 - The surgeon is solely responsible for appropriate patient selection.

Responsible CV program leaders recognize the **necessary interplay between cardiology and the cardiac surgery team in terms of patient selection**. Appropriate OHS patient selection begins with a detailed assessment of the cath lab and the resulting cardiologist referrals to the surgeon.



Myth #3 - Higher mortality is acceptable due to increasing patient complexity coupled with low patient volume.

The STS data reveals national **mortality percentages just slightly above or below 2% for at least the last 15 years**. Maintaining mortality below 2% is a must for all programs regardless of size, which means low volume programs have an even greater challenge given the low denominator of cases.

Don't let these myths prevent you from elevating the operations of your OHS program. Subscribing to the myths can place the often positive financial outlook of your OHS program in jeopardy. The causes for poor OHS outcomes are ALWAYS multifactorial, and it is for this reason that conscientious CV leaders need to act decisively. ***Call us to learn how our team of experts can conduct a rapid open heart surgery assessment and provide the necessary tools to achieve excellence in your program!***

Client Kudos: UPMC Memorial

Congratulations to long-time Corazon client **UPMC Memorial** in York, PA on their new state-of-the-art replacement facility. Featuring 102 private rooms, the 220,000 sq.ft. site will provide acute and emergency medical care, cardiology and vascular services, chronic disease management, surgical services, and treatment for patients in need of long-term acute care.

With a significantly lower carbon footprint and lessened reliance on single-use consumables, the new hospital sets an innovative example of a patient-centric, healing environment. Corazon is excited to see the positive impact on patient care that this new facility will bring.



Client Placements

Corazon is pleased to announce completed Permanent and Interim placements for the following clients:

- A **Director, Cardiac Cath Lab** at **Central Peninsula Hospital** in Soldotna, AK.
- A **Vascular Neurologist** at **Baptist Medical Center South** in Montgomery, AL.
- A **Medical Director, Cardiac Cath Lab** at **Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District** in Brawley, CA.

Best Places to Work



Corazon has once again been recognized as one of The Best Places to Work in Healthcare for 2019 by *Modern Healthcare*.

Engaged, successful team = happy, satisfied clients!

Advanced Stroke Care

The future is here! Corazon is committed to providing cutting-edge neuroscience advice to our clients. The strong partnership between outcomes-enhancing technology and quality-driven patient care is at the center of Corazon's successful development, implementation, and re-engineering of all levels of stroke programs.

Through a **newly-realized partnership with Viz.ai**, Corazon clients, and the patients they serve, will see first-hand the **power of Advanced Technology and Artificial Intelligence when combined with the unparalleled expertise of Corazon for program development**. The **Corazon Stroke Institute** is a package solution to expertly implement and continually manage patient and program elements from start to finish.

This partnership will give clients access to an even greater scope of services that **implement or enhance coordinated stroke care delivery** to those affected with Large Vessel Occlusion. *Call us to learn more!*



Upcoming Webinars



Take advantage of the knowledge, experience, and advice of industry experts and the Corazon team in a **convenient web forum**. ***Don't miss out on these upcoming events:***

- Spine Physician Recruitment - **Sept. 24**
- Is Your Cardiac Surgery Program in Jeopardy? - **Sept. 26**
- CEREBROS™ Interactive View - **Oct. 15**
- Neuroendovascular Services - **Nov. 1**

Visit www.corazoninc.com/distance-learning to register for one or all of these exclusive webinars and **stay tuned for additional postings!**

CEREBROS™ Recognized as Get With the Guidelines®-Stroke Compatible Vendor

Corazon's Neurovascular Information System (NVIS), **CEREBROS™**, has been named a **Get With the Guidelines®-Stroke Compatible Vendor** by the American Heart Association®. As the first NVIS designed for stroke programs, CEREBROS™ revolutionizes the way patient care is delivered before, during, and after a stroke to ultimately save lives while also creating hospital and service line efficiencies.



The Outcomes of Corazon Accreditation: Elevate Your Service Line Program

The cardiovascular service line continues to be a primary focus for regulatory bodies, quality groups, and professional clinical organizations, and as a result, remains competitive for hospitals in markets across the country. **Many hospital leaders need to consider strategies for market distinction, including program accreditation.**

Gaining momentum as a differentiator, formal accreditation of either the service line or specific procedural components within cardiovascular, such as **open heart surgery, cardiac intervention, electrophysiology, peripheral vascular procedures, etc.**, can position a program for success. **Achieving accreditation is a way to substantiate “best practice”** through ongoing case review, quality measures, and benchmarks. Corazon believes having third-party, expert scrutiny on the quality of care provided, a critical measure of success in today’s ever-evolving healthcare landscape, can translate into a tangible positive impact on program volumes, outcomes, and finances.

With **Corazon Accreditation’s proven approach** -- **E**valuate. **E**nhance. **E**xcel. -- your program will reach new heights of **clinical, operational, and financial quality**. Corazon is THE national leader in accreditation across the full cardiovascular care continuum and is the **industry’s only accrediting body for open heart surgery**.

Not only does Corazon Accreditation offer CV programs the ability to drive continuous quality improvement, but also allows operational improvement and efficiencies. **The time is NOW to commit to program accreditation as a means to reach new heights!**



Corazon Accreditation: Client Kudos

Corazon accredited the PCI program at **Chan Soon-Shiong Medical Center at Windber** (pictured). Through a rigorous process, this program met and exceeded requirements established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Through hard work and dedication to enhancing their cardiovascular service line, the hospital team is committed to providing the highest quality of care.



Corazon also recognizes two UPMC Hospitals in Pennsylvania -- **UPMC Hanover and UPMC Memorial** -- on their CV program accreditations.

In both instances, Corazon worked with on-site leadership and physicians on business planning and implementation of PCI, along with full program assessments and accreditation. Both programs have grown in volume and a focus on patient safety and quality care, using accreditation as a significant market differentiator in each of their unique communities.

Corazon congratulates all three facilities on their well-deserved accomplishments and bringing advanced treatment options to their communities!

Visit us at www.corazoninc.com or call 412.364.8200

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The Corazon Report is published by the experts at Corazon, THE national leader in strategic program development for **HEART, VASCULAR, NEURO, SPINE, and ORTHOPEDIC** programs and practices. Our team of experts offers total program solutions through Consulting, Software Solutions, Recruitment, Interim Management, and Accreditation services to clients across the country and in Canada. The information herein reflects the opinion of Corazon and in some cases may not necessarily be the opinion of other healthcare industry professionals.

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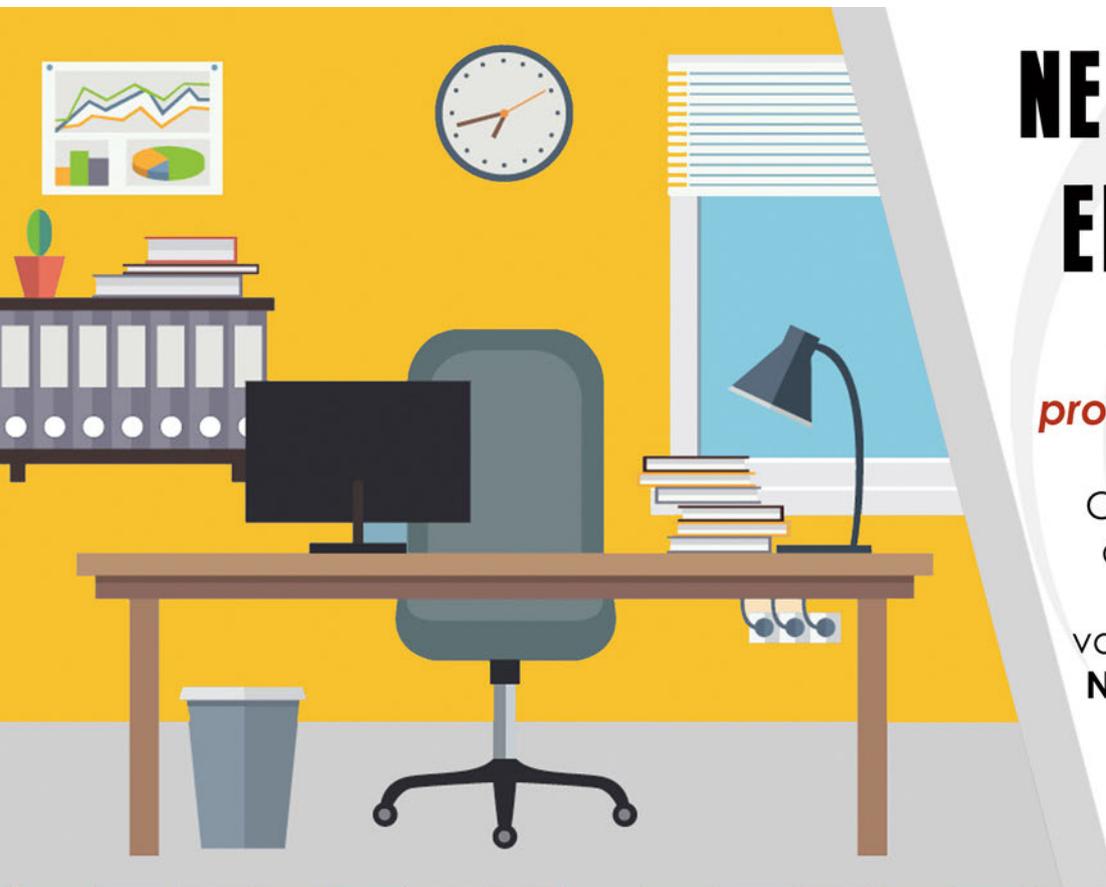
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Corazon's Interim Management Services will bring
the right fit to your organization!*

