



Queen of Peace Hospital

Bringing Medical Excellence Home

From: Queen of Peace Hospital
301 2nd St. NE
New Prague, MN 56071
www.queenofpeacehospital.com

Contact: Marla Mayer
Phone: 952.758.8188
Fax: 952.758.7876
mmayer@qofp.org

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QUEEN OF PEACE HOSPITAL NAMED SCOTT COUNTY'S FIRST LEVEL III TRAUMA CENTER

(NEW PRAGUE, MN) – The Minnesota State Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC) today officially approved Queen of Peace Hospital's application to become a Level III Trauma Center, the first hospital to earn this designation in Scott County.

Queen of Peace joins six other hospitals in the state to receive this designation with the goal of ensuring that seriously injured patients will be promptly transported to and treated at facilities with resources to care for their injuries.

"This is a big accomplishment for us," said Dr. Bret Cardwell, Queen of Peace General Surgeon. "For our patients it means that they will receive the best level of care at home. We have more resources and training to rapidly assess and treat patients who have suffered a traumatic or serious injury."

The Minnesota Department of Health reports that trauma – or serious injury - is the third leading cause of death in Minnesota. On average, trauma claims the lives of 2,400 Minnesotans annually. A comprehensive statewide trauma system has been responsible for increasing survival rates by 15 to 20 percent in states where it has been implemented.

"The process to become a Level III Trauma Center is intense and lengthy," said Cardwell. In order to qualify, Queen of Peace Hospital underwent a year-and-a-half long process to develop a program that focuses on the care of trauma patients. This includes the hospital now providing ventilator services, a full-time board-certified surgeon, advanced trauma training for all staff and participation in the state's trauma registry.

"Trauma is the leading cause of death for those between the ages of one and 44," said Dr. Eric Gage, medical director of emergency services for Queen of Peace. "Being prepared to care for the seriously injured is the key to saving lives. Level III designation reflects our commitment to provide immediate, life-saving treatment to our patients."

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Other Level III Trauma Centers in the state include Fairview Southdale in Edina, Riverwood Healthcare Center in Aitkin, Cuyuna Regional Medical Center in Crosby, and Immanuel-St. Joseph's in Mankato. Also newly receiving the Level III Trauma designation along with Queen of Peace Hospital were Fairview Red Wing Medical Center and Unity Hospital in Fridley.

Queen of Peace Hospital, located in New Prague, MN, provides comprehensive healthcare to a patient base of roughly 60,000 in four counties. Queen of Peace is a Critical Access Hospital accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). For information about Queen of Peace, visit the hospital's website at www.queenofpeacehospital.com.

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