

**For Immediate Release**

## MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center transplant program to evaluate services

### *Announcement of temporary inactivation of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program*

**Des Moines, Iowa, May 23, 2019** – MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center (MercyOne Des Moines) announced today the voluntary inactivation of its Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program for a period of up to 12 months, effective July 1, 2019.

“The decision to temporarily stop performing transplants was not taken lightly,” said Karl Keeler, president of MercyOne Central Iowa. “We are proud of our transplant surgical and clinical teams and the many lives these programs have impacted. However, health care continues to change, and transplant care is no exception.”

This temporary pause of transplant procedures (kidney and pancreas) will allow the time necessary to closely evaluate the operational and technology needs of the program, as well as overall patient volume -- a key reason behind the decision to inactivate.

“In order to keep health care sustainable, we must continue to evaluate the services MercyOne is providing and consider investing in areas where community needs are not being met. It is becoming increasingly important for us to collaborate with other providers for the benefit of the people and communities we serve. Our central Iowa community is fortunate to be served by two transplant programs,” continued Keeler.

MercyOne Des Moines is working closely with the Iowa Methodist Transplant Center of Des Moines to meet the needs of our patients during the temporary period of inactivation, and they have agreed to evaluate our actively listed patients for placement on their waiting list, should patients choose this option. This collaboration with Iowa Methodist Transplant Center will provide area patients the opportunity to continue to receive transplant services close to home.

All candidates on the wait list, potential candidates in the evaluation process, potential living donors and transplant recipients have been notified of the inactivation period via mail, and MercyOne has staff available to assist in the referral and transfer of patients to any active transplant center they choose. Patients were also provided with a list of active centers and information from the United Network for Organ Sharing.

“No patient will lose their accumulated time on the wait list,” said Linda Goodwin, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Executive at MercyOne Des Moines. “Great care is being taken to ensure all transplant patients receive the care and services they need while our program is temporarily inactivated.”

The role MercyOne Des Moines plays in helping with organ donations will continue during the inactivation period. The Iowa Donor Network (IDN) will continue to send teams of surgeons to MercyOne Des Moines



for organ, tissue and eye donation services, as well as coordinate representatives from other U.S. transplant programs at the medical center for the organ recovery process.

MercyOne Des Moines will also continue to provide care to transplant recipients currently being followed in its Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program or will provide the option to transfer care to another transplant center.

As one of three transplant programs in Iowa, MercyOne Des Moines has served as a kidney, kidney-pancreas and pancreas organ transplant center for more than 30 years, completing 607 transplant procedures during this time.

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#### **About MercyOne Central Iowa**

MercyOne Central Iowa operates four not-for-profit, Catholic medical centers in Des Moines, West Des Moines, Newton and Centerville (875 beds combined total) and two specialty hospitals – MercyOne Children’s Hospital in Des Moines and MercyOne Rehabilitation Hospital in Clive – along with more than 20 additional facilities that house more than 60 primary care, pediatric, internal medicine and specialty clinics. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1893, MercyOne Central Iowa has the longest continually operating hospital in Des Moines and is also one of the largest employers in the state, with more than 7,000 employees and a medical staff of more than 1,000 physicians and allied health associates. MercyOne Central Iowa is a member of MercyOne, which was founded in 1998 through a collaboration between CommonSpirit Health and Trinity Health – two of the country’s foremost, not-for-profit Catholic health organizations. The MercyOne system has more than 20,000 colleagues in Iowa and surrounding states.