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BayCare offering new knee replacement surgery

CLEARWATER — BayCare's Morton Plant Hospital recently became the first hospital in the Tampa Bay area to offer lateral approach knee replacement surgery.

The procedure is also referred to as quadricep sparing surgery because it doesn't require the surgeon to cut the quadricep muscle. For the patient, this should mean a smaller scar and a quicker recovery.

Orthopedic Surgeon David Cheong, MD, who is with Orthopedic Associates of West Florida on the Morton Plant campus, has been performing the surgeries at Morton Plant since July. He saw the advantages of the procedure when he decided to spend time observing it in person.

"Though it's a technically difficult procedure, I recognized the benefits for my patients would be worth the investment of my time away from my practice to learn it," he said.

BayCare bariatric program receives reaccreditation

DUNEDIN — BayCare's Mease Dunedin Hospital's bariatric program recently received reaccreditation as a Comprehensive Center by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation

and Quality Improvement Program.

The reaccreditation affirms the program meets the highest standards for patient safety and quality of care.

Bariatrics is the branch of medicine that deals with the causes, prevention and treatment of obesity. Nutrition, exercise, weight-loss behavioral therapy, drug therapy and weight-loss surgery are all components of the bariatric field.

"It was a rigorous review, and we passed with flying colors," said Gina Jackson, the hospital's bariatric manager. "I'm so proud of my team and their accomplishments."

Mease Dunedin is one of four BayCare hospitals with accredited bariatric programs.

South Florida Baptist Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Anthony's Hospital have accredited programs and will have their virtual site visit for reaccreditation next year. Winter Haven Hospital applied for its initial accreditation and awaits results from its virtual site survey.

Mease Countryside Hospital plans to apply for its initial accreditation by the end of this year, and St. Joseph's Hospital-South plans to apply next year.

"As the number of individuals affected by obesity continues to grow, BayCare is committed to standing out as a leader in health care by expanding our bariatric programs to additional hospitals in order to better serve the needs of our communities," said Donna St. Louis, vice president of business development for BayCare.

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