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PRESS RELEASE

Prairie Heart Physicians First in U.S. to Use New Procedure on Patient
Double Edwards Sapien 3™ transcatheter heart valves successfully implanted at HSHS St. John's Hospital saves Decatur woman's life

January 19, 2016—SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – Doctors at the Prairie Heart Institute (PHI) at HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Ill., have become the **first in the United States** to successfully complete a double transcatheter heart valve replacement using the Edwards Sapien 3™ valve**.**

The patient, Gretchen Peters-Hantle, from Decatur, Ill., was considered high-risk for traditional open heart surgery necessary to replace two of her failing heart valves. Prairie Cardiovascular physicians routinely replace aortic valves using a minimally invasive procedure called transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), but there is no transcatheter option available for the mitral valve in the US.

The patient was referred to the Structural Heart Disease (SHD) team at PHI. Her aortic and mitral valves needed to be replaced. However, she was too critically ill for traditional open heart surgery. The SHD team has been using the TAVR procedure since 2012. Greg Mishkel, MD, the executive medical director of the PHI, and his colleagues decided to leverage their experience with this technology because they believed it offered the best chance of saving her life. A surgeon from Italy with experience in this type of procedure in Europe also consulted on the case. The surgeons included Dr. Gregory Mishkel (Prairie Cardiovascular), Dr. Nilesh Goswami (Prairie Cardiovascular) and Dr. William Stevens (SIU Physicians and Surgeons).

 "The doctors of Prairie are proud to be a resource close to home for patients in Illinois and a referral option for those who live throughout the region," Dr. Mishkel said.

Shelly Challans, Valve Clinic Director for the Structural Heart Disease (SHD) team at Prairie Heart Institute, said, "Our SHD team has completed more than 325 TAVR procedures since January 2012. In addition to TAVR procedures, we can utilize various approaches to treat structural and valvular heart disease."

Other advanced SHD procedures available at PHI include minimally invasive valve replacement surgery, transcatheter mitral valve repair via the MitraClip, percutaneous aortic and mitral valvuloplasty, and catheter-based closure of atrial and ventricular wall defects.

"Teamwork is essential in health care and our SHD team at the Prairie Heart institute is made up of cardiologists, surgeons, radiologists, nurses, and technologists, all of whom collaborate on the care of each of our patients," Challans said.

"People have said this was a miracle. The biggest part of the miracle was being privileged to be a patient of St. John's Prairie Heart Institute and Drs. Mishkel, Goswami and Stevens' entire team. I'm very grateful," Peters-Hantle said.

The Sapien 3™ valve, developed by Edwards Lifesciences, is a transcatheter aortic valve that is inserted into a patient's existing aortic valve using a minimally invasive procedure, which carries far less risk for patients with advanced-stage heart conditions.

The valve received FDA approval for regular use in the U.S in June of 2015, and has been commercially available in Europe since January 2014. The SAPIEN family of valves has been used in the treatment of more than 100,000 patients globally.

The Prairie Heart Institute of Illinois' network of hospitals and providers is a recognized national heart health care leader, combining the best physicians, protocols and research to ensure the best possible care for heart patients when it matters most. Prairie's multidisciplinary team of specialists, representing interventional and non-invasive cardiology, cardiac surgery, cardiovascular imaging and cardiac anesthesia, partner to develop individualized care plans while continuously working together to provide patients with innovative and effective cardiovascular care.