



STURDY
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**STURDY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL HONORED FOR
HEPATITIS B VACCINE BIRTH DOSE RATE**

ATTLEBORO, MA, August 20, 2014 – Sturdy Memorial Hospital has been recognized by the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) for achieving one of the highest reported rates in the State for its work to protect newborns from hepatitis B virus infection. Sturdy is currently only one of five Massachusetts hospitals to be on the Honor Roll.

Sturdy Memorial Hospital's Maternity Unit is the newest entry into IAC's Birth Dose Honor Roll (www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose), which recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that have attained high coverage levels for administering the hepatitis B vaccine at birth. Sturdy immunized 99% percent of babies from August 2013 to July 2014 and took additional steps to prevent perinatal transmission of hepatitis B.

The national standard of care to prevent hepatitis B virus infection in babies is to administer hepatitis B vaccine to all newborns before they leave the hospital or birthing center. This standard is being adopted by centers of health care excellence nationwide as a safety net to protect newborns from a wide range of medical errors that lead to babies being unprotected from perinatal hepatitis B infection.

Sturdy delivers close to 800 babies each year in its capacious maternity unit and is recognized by patients for its nurses' friendliness, personal care and attentiveness to needs, with satisfaction ratings consistently above the 90th percentile according to data provided by Press Ganey, a national company which specializes in improving the patient experience. For more information about maternity services at Sturdy Memorial Hospital, call 508-236-7250 or visit www.sturdymemorial.org.

Sturdy Memorial Hospital is a full-service, independent, financially stable, not-for-profit acute care community hospital in Attleboro, which serves southeastern Massachusetts and nearby Rhode Island.

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