

A branch of CVMS

# News Release

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# CEDAR VALLEY DIGESTIVE HEALTH CENTER GRANTED RENEWED RECOGNITION BY LEADING GASTROINTESTINAL MEDICAL SOCIETY FOR QUALITY AND SAFETY

**WATERLOO, IA – [4/24/2025]** – The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), a leading gastrointestinal medical society, has recently granted a three-year recognition for quality and safety to Cedar Valley Digestive Health Center (CVDH) of Waterloo as part of its program specifically dedicated to promoting quality in endoscopy in all settings where it is practiced. CVDH is one of more than 600 endoscopy units to be granted the recognition since 2009. The ASGE Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program honors endoscopy units that have demonstrated a commitment to patient safety and quality in endoscopy as evidenced by meeting the program's rigorous criteria, which includes following the ASGE guidelines on privileging, quality assurance, endoscope reprocessing, CDC infection control guidelines and ensuring endoscopy staff competency.

To be recognized by ASGE, a unit, through a peer-reviewed application process, must attest to the continued competence of all staff relative to their roles, demonstrate the adoption of unit policies specific to ongoing assessment of performance relative to key quality indicators and attest that the unit has an established infrastructure and personnel dedicated to infection control and prevention. The program is applicable to all settings where endoscopy is practiced, including office-based endoscopy units, hospital-based endoscopy units and stand-alone ambulatory surgery centers.

An important component of the program is an educational course entitled, "Improving Quality and Safety in Your Endoscopy Unit," that thoroughly reviews related guidelines. Upon completion of the program, successful applicants are awarded honoree status in the ASGE Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program and receive the ASGE Certificate of Recognition of Quality in Endoscopy. The certificate is granted for a three-year renewable period. For a full list of program benefits, log on to www.asge.org.

CedarValleyGI.com



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"We are proud to acknowledge these endoscopy units through our Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program for their commitment to promoting the highest standards of quality and safety," said Joe Elmunzer, MD, chair, ASGE Quality Assurance in Endoscopy Committee. "By ensuring infection control principles are adhered to, continually assessing the competency of staff and monitoring patient satisfaction, ASGE honoree units contribute to the public's confidence in endoscopy, a life-saving technology."

#### **ASGE and Quality**

ASGE is the profession's leader in setting standards of excellence in endoscopy through its safety guidelines and the training of its members so that patients receive the best and safest care possible. The Society continually reinforces the importance of quality and safety among its members through member communications, such as emails and newslet-ters and its courses, including "Improving Quality and Safety in Your Endoscopy Unit."

#### About Cedar Valley Digestive Health

Patients have trusted the specialists at Cedar Valley Digestive Health Center since 1989 for the treatment of digestive disorders and diseases. Patients commonly see the team of highly qualified providers when irregular digestive symptoms arise including heartburn, constipation, abdominal pain, ulcers or other stomach or bowel-related issues. Depending on the diagnosis and the patient, their team develops a treatment plan that may include medication, therapies or sometimes surgeries. Common procedures performed include colonoscopies, endoscopies and treatments for gall-stones, reflux, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), Crohn's, hemorrhoids and Hepatitis C. Located at 1015 S. Hackett Road in Waterloo, patients can call 319-234-5990 to schedule an appointment at Cedar Valley Digestive Health Center.

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## About the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Since its founding in 1941, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) has been dedicated to advancing patient care and digestive health by promoting excellence and innovation in gastrointestinal endoscopy. ASGE, with more than 16,000 members worldwide, promotes the highest standards for endoscopic training and practice, fosters endoscopic research, recognizes distinguished contributions to endoscopy and is the foremost resource for endoscopic education. Visit ASGE.org and ValueOfColonoscopy.org for more information and to find a qualified doctor in your area.

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#### **About Endoscopy**

Endoscopy is performed by physicians called endoscopists using the most current technology to diagnose and treat diseases of the gastrointestinal tract. Using flexible, thin tubes called endoscopes, endoscopists are able to access the human digestive tract without incisions via natural orifices. Endoscopes are designed with high-intensity lighting and fitted with precision devices that allow viewing and treatment of the gastrointestinal system.



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