



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2018

**CONTACT: Julia Vachon, BVHS PR & Marketing
419.423.5385
jvachon@bvhealthsystem.org**

Dr. Lorie Thomas of Blanchard Valley Obstetrics & Gynecology Named Master Surgeon

Lorie Thomas, DO, a gynecologist at Blanchard Valley Health System (BVHS), has achieved accreditation as a master surgeon of both minimally invasive gynecology and robotic surgery by Surgical Review Corporation (SRC). This accreditation distinguishes Blanchard Valley Obstetrics & Gynecology, a division of BVHS, from many other outpatient facilities by providing the highest quality of care to its patients as determined by an independent, external process of evaluation.

Status as an accredited organization means BVHS along with Dr. Thomas has met nationally recognized standards. Not all health care organizations seek accreditation, and not all that undergo the rigorous on-site inspection process are granted accreditation.

“Blanchard Valley Health System strives to remain updated on the latest technologies and procedures,” said Chris Keller, president of Bluffton Hospital and vice president of Blanchard Valley clinical services and supply chain. “Dr. Thomas’ hard work to receive this accreditation reflects on our organization’s commitment to providing elite quality care to our patients.”

Health care organizations seeking accreditation by SRC undergo an extensive self-assessment and on-site inspection. This process includes physicians, nurses, and administrators who are actively involved in the accredited program. The inspection is consultative and educational, presenting best practices to help an organization improve its care and services.

“To be named a master surgeon by SRC is indeed an honor,” commented Dr. Thomas. “I am committed to continuously learning and passionate about providing the best care possible to my patients and allowing them to return to their lives.”

Established in 2003, SRC is an internationally recognized patient safety organization dedicated to recognizing and refining surgical care. SRC is the leading administrator of quality improvement and accreditation programs for surgeons and hospitals worldwide. SRC’s proven methodology, known as the “Cycle of Excellence,” results in quantifiable and unparalleled improvement in outcomes, patient safety and costs across surgical specialties. For more information, visit www.surgicalreview.org.

Blanchard Valley Health System provides a total continuum of care to more than 100,000 households in an eight-county area.

###