Mercy hospitals earned the awards by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of heart failure and stroke patients at a set level for a designated period.

For all patients, these measures included evaluation of the proper use of medications. For heart failure patients, these measures also included aggressive risk-reduction therapies. For stroke patients, these measures consisted of other stroke treatments aligned with up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability.

Before discharge, heart failure and stroke patients also receive education on managing their overall health; have a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.