

B BLESSING HOSPITAL

*Community News from Blessing's Public Relations Dept.
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Blessing Hospital earns next level of national Chest Pain Center accreditation

Blessing Hospital has reached a new level of recognition for its quality heart care. Blessing has been reaccredited as a national Chest Pain Center, with additional recognition of its PCI (Percutaneous Coronary Interventions) capabilities by the Society of Chest Pain Centers. The addition of PCI in the accreditation recognizes Blessing's performance of Cardiac Catheterization, more commonly known as angioplasty, which can quickly clear blockages to reduce the damage caused by a heart attack.

The Blessing Heart & Vascular Center has performed more than 1,000 PCIs since it opened in January 2004. The Hospital's "door to balloon time," the time between a patient arriving at Blessing, being diagnosed as needing Cardiac Catheterization, and receiving the life-saving treatment, is better than the national guideline of 90 minutes.

At this time, only nine hospitals in Illinois and 10 in Missouri hold Chest Pain Center with PCI accreditation, the closest are two hospitals in St. Louis, MO.

Blessing was first accredited as a Chest Pain Center from 2005-2008. The reaccreditation with PCI recognition covers the period 2009-2012.

"Every three years, the Society of Chest Pain Centers expects better results from hospitals to retain accreditation," said Kathy Muder, RN, director, Blessing Hospital Emergency Center and chairman of the Hospital's Chest Pain Center accreditation team. "Blessing Hospital delivered the results expected to not only earn reaccreditation, but receive enhanced accreditation."

Accreditation by the national Society of Chest Pain Centers means Blessing Hospital meets or exceeds quality-of-care measures in acute cardiac medicine. Blessing has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and completing an on-site evaluation by a review team from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. Key areas in which a Chest Pain Center must demonstrate expertise include:

- Integrating the emergency department with the local emergency medical system.
- Assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients quickly.
- Effectively treating patients with low risk for acute coronary syndrome and no assignable cause for their symptoms.
- Ensuring Chest Pain Center personnel competency and training.
- Maintaining organizational structure and commitment.
- Having a functional design that promotes optimal patient care.
- Supporting community outreach programs that educate the public to promptly seek medical care if they display symptoms of a possible heart attack.
- Continually seeking to improve processes and procedures.

Muder and Richard Saalborn, DO, medical director, Blessing Hospital Emergency Center, say an opportunity for improvement lies in educating the public to call an ambulance if they feel symptoms of a heart attack.

“Sixty percent of heart attack patients arrive at the Blessing Hospital Emergency Center by car,” said Dr. Saalborn. “It is much more beneficial to arrive by ambulance. The first responders notify us prior to their arrival, and communicate critical information to us that shortens the time it takes for the patient to get the treatment they need.”