



Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital Receives Chest Pain Accreditation

Lacombe, LA (January 15, 2009) The Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital has been awarded full Cycle II accreditation status as a Chest Pain Center from the Accreditation Review Committee of the Society of Chest Pain Centers. The hospital is the only one on the North Shore to have this accreditation.

Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States, with 600,000 dying annually of heart disease. More than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain. The goal of the Society of Chest Pain Centers is to significantly reduce the mortality rate of these patients by teaching the public to recognize and react to the early symptoms of a possible heart attack, reduce the time that it takes to receive treatment, and increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment.

The Chest Pain Center's protocol driven and systematic approach to patient management allows physicians to reduce time to treatment during the critical early stages of a heart attack, when treatments are most effective, and to better monitor patients when it is not clear whether they are having a coronary event. Such observation helps ensure that a patient is neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

With the rise of Chest Pain Centers came the need to establish standards designed to improve the consistency and quality of care provided to patients. The Society's accreditation process insures centers meet or exceed quality-of-care measures in acute cardiac medicine.

The Chest Pain Center at Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and completing on-site evaluations 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
- Continually seeking to improve processes and procedures
- 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

About Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital

Opened in 2003 in the heart of St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana Medical Center & Heart Hospital is a 58 bed acute care facility providing comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care. And scheduled to open Spring 2009 is the under-construction 110,000 square-foot, four-story patient tower and a 120-bed expansion. LMCHH serves patients from Tangipahoa, Washington and St. Tammany Parishes in Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast counties.

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