
For immediate release

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St. Mary's Medical Center Earns Chest Pain Accreditation

Blue Springs, Mo. – St. Mary's Medical Center has earned Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. St. Mary's undertook a rigorous evaluation and refinement of heart care processes in order to integrate the industry's best practices into its cardiac care services. The accreditation proves St. Mary's works seamlessly with area Emergency Medical Services to ensure patients in eastern Jackson County get the treatment they need during the critical early stages of a heart attack.

As an Accredited Chest Pain Center, St. Mary's ensures patients who come to the Emergency Department with chest pain or discomfort are given the immediate treatment necessary to avoid as much heart damage as possible. Protocol-based procedures developed by leading experts in cardiac care are part of St. Mary's overall cardiac care services.

“This accreditation further demonstrates our dedication to excellence and quality care for our patients,” says Annette Small, CEO, St. Mary's Medical Center. “It shows that when patients come to St. Mary's they can trust us to provide the best possible outcomes in heart care.”

Heart attack warning signs:

- Chest discomfort—pressure, squeezing or pain; lasting more than a few minutes, or comes and goes
- Discomfort or pain in the upper body—in one or both arms, the back, neck jaw or stomach
- Shortness of breath
- Cold sweat
- Nausea or lightheadedness.

Cynthia Peters, Director of Cardiac Services for St. Mary's Medical Center, says, “The accreditation also emphasizes the importance of community education. We need to remind people not to wait when they think they might be having a heart attack. Don't wait. Call 911. The sooner a heart attack is treated, the less damage to the heart.”

St. Mary's Medical Center is an acute care facility of Carondelet Health (CarondeletHealth.org) which also includes St. Joseph Medical Center, three long-term care facilities and home care services. Carondelet Health is dedicated to the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Our commitment to human dignity compels us to provide compassionate, quality healthcare for body, mind and spirit, with a special concern for the poor. We are responsible stewards serving the needs of all people from conception to death. Carondelet Health is a member of Ascension Health, the nation's largest Catholic and nonprofit health system.