



Tri-City Medical Center

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For Immediate Release
November 4, 2009

Contact: Courtney Berlin
Office: 760-940-5757
Cell Phone: 760-802-0986

Tri-City Medical Center Receives Chest Pain Center Accreditation

Oceanside, CA – Tri-City Medical Center has become the first hospital in San Diego County to receive Cycle III Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC).

As an accredited Chest Pain Center, Tri-City has embraced a protocol driven and systematic approach to patient management. This allows physicians to reduce time to treatment during the critical early stages of a heart attack when intervention is most effective, and improve the observation of patients when it is not clear whether they are having a coronary event, ensuring that a patient is neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

"This accreditation is an example of Tri-City Medical Center embracing patient care as the primary focus," said Dr. Gene Ma, Medical Director of Tri-City Emergency Medicine Group. "SCPC is the only nationally recognized panel of experts in cardiac care. They not only awarded Tri-City full accreditation at the most prestigious level, Cycle III with PCI (Percutaneous Coronary Intervention), but also commented on the innovative practices being developed for coordinated heart care in our community."

The Society's accreditation process ensures centers meet or exceed quality-of-care measures in acute cardiac medicine. California has only 18 hospitals with SCPC accreditation and out of those, only two have Cycle III accreditation, including Tri-City.

The Chest Pain Center at Tri-City Medical Center 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

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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

“Tri-City’s designation as a nationally accredited Chest Pain Center clearly validates to our patients and the community that our care has been scrutinized against national standards,” said Larry Anderson, CEO of Tri-City Medical Center. “This is an accomplishment the community can celebrate, knowing that Tri-City is focused on not only the care we deliver inside the hospital, but also on educating the community of signs, symptoms and prevention of heart-related ailments.”

“I think the community should be proud of this landmark accomplishment of their local hospital and be comfortable knowing they have one of the best acute care hospitals in the county right in their own backyard,” said Dr. David Spiegel, Medical Director of Tri-City’s Cardiac Catheterization Lab.

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.

Tri-City Medical Center is a San Diego County Designated STEMI (Heart Attack) Receiving Center and is establishing a Cardiovascular Institute that will launch in 2010.

About the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC)

The Society of Chest Pain Centers is a patient centric non-profit international professional organization focused upon improving care for patients with acute coronary syndromes and other related maladies. Established in 1998, the Society is dedicated to patient advocacy and focusing on ischemic heart disease. Central to its mission is the question, “What is right for the patient?” In answer, the Society promotes protocol based medicine, often delivered through a Chest Pain Center model to address the diagnosis and treatment of acute coronary syndromes, heart failure, and to promote the adoption of process improvement science by healthcare providers. To best fulfill this mission, the Society of Chest Pain Centers provides accreditation to facilities striving for optimum Chest Pain Center care. SCPC is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.