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ST. JOHN'S PRAIRIE HEART INSTITUTE RECEIVES AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION ACCREDITATION FOR ACUTE CARDIAC CARE

Springfield, IL—St. John's Prairie Heart Institute has received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® Heart Attack Receiving Center Accreditation.

The accreditation program — sponsored by the American Heart Association and the Society of Chest Pain Centers — recognizes centers that meet or exceed quality of care measures for people experiencing the most severe type of heart attack, ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), in which blood flow is completely blocked to a portion of the heart.

St. John's Prairie Heart Institute underwent an on-site review by accreditation specialists from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. Prairie Heart Institute demonstrated exceptional quality of care for these patients in order to receive accreditation.

As a result the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® Heart Attack Receiving Center Accreditation certification mark will be displayed at the Prairie Heart Institute.

"The Prairie Heart Institute is thoroughly committed to providing our patients the highest quality cardiac care centered on current scientific research and clinical guidelines," said Charles L. Lucore, MD, FACC, executive director of Prairie Heart Institute. "We are honored to receive the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® Heart Attack Receiving Center Accreditation as it underscores the high-quality program centered at the Prairie Heart Institute and recognizes us for the excellent care provided to patients by our physicians and staff."

Through its accreditation program, the American Heart Association hopes to significantly reduce cardiac death by teaching the public to recognize and react to early symptoms of a heart attack, reduce the time it takes to receive lifesaving treatment and increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment administered.

The American Heart Association's overall goal for Mission: Lifeline® Heart Attack Receiving Center Accreditation is to significantly reduce cardiac death in patients by teaching the public to recognize and react to early symptoms of a heart attack, reduce the time it takes to receive life-saving treatment and increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment administered.

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**American Heart Association
ACCREDITATION**

Meets standards for

Heart Attack Receiving Center

About St. John's Prairie Heart Institute

Prairie Heart Institute is a national leader in cardiovascular care. In 2012, for the first time in its history, the Prairie Heart Institute at St. John's Hospital was recognized by HealthGrades for national excellence in three difference categories: Cardiac Care Excellence Award, the Cardiac Surgery Excellence Award and the Coronary Intervention Excellence Award. St. John's Prairie Heart Institute performed the first Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) procedure in downstate Illinois on January 12, 2012. This revolutionary new procedure does not require traditional open heart surgery, but instead uses a catheter through an incision in the leg to replace the aortic valve. Thomson Reuters named St. John's Prairie Heart Institute as one of the nation's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals for 2011. This is the fourth time St. John's has been recognized with this honor. U.S. News and World Report named St. John's Prairie Heart Institute as one of the best regional hospitals for cardiology and heart surgery for 2011 and 2012.

About the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline[®]

Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans have a type of heart attack known as ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), in which blood flow is completely blocked to a portion of the heart. Unless the blockage is eliminated quickly, the patient's health and life are at serious risk. The American Heart Association launched **Mission: Lifeline[®]** in 2007 to improve systems of care for patients suffering from STEMI by eliminating the obstacles that keep patients from accessing and receiving appropriate treatment.

Mission: Lifeline[®] brings together healthcare resources into an efficient, synergic system to improve overall quality of care based on the latest scientific evidence and guidelines. It addresses the entire continuum of care for STEMI patients while preserving a role for the local hospital. While there is no "one-size-fits all" solution to efficiently treat STEMI patients, **Mission: Lifeline[®]** develops protocols specific to the rural or urban area and provides recommendations for community level implementation of STEMI systems of care. The **Mission: Lifeline[®]** ideal STEMI system of care is that all parties with a vested interest treating STEMI patients — from EMS providers to cardiologists, from hospital administrators to policymakers and from third-party payers to the public — share a common belief that quality and timely patient care is the top priority. There is a mutual respect for the critical role of each player in the STEMI system. Individual parties are not out to promote their self-serving interests. Rather, everyone works together to build a consensus on the ideal STEMI system for their region, considering its unique challenges. For more information about **Mission: Lifeline[®]**, visit www.heart.org/missionlifeline.

About the Society of Chest Pain Centers

The Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC) is an international not-for-profit organization committed to leading the fight to eliminate heart disease as the No. 1 cause of death worldwide. SCPC focuses on transforming cardiovascular care by assisting facilities in their effort to create communities of excellence that bring together quality, cost and patient satisfaction. As the only cross-specialty organization, SCPC provides the support needed for individual hospitals and hospital systems to effectively bridge existing gaps in treatment by providing the tools, education and support necessary to successfully navigate the changing face of healthcare. For more information on SCPC, accreditation and certification opportunities, visit www.scpcp.org or call toll free (877) 271-4176.