



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2014

Contact: Erica Cusumano, Public Relations Rep.
217-544-6464, ext. 44307

PRAIRIE HEART INSTITUTE AT ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL ACCREDITED AS CHEST PAIN CENTER

SPRINGFIELD – Prairie Heart Institute (PHI) at St. John's Hospital announces that it has received full Chest Pain Center Accreditation with PCI (Percutaneous Coronary Intervention) from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (SCPC), an international not-for-profit organization that focuses on transforming cardiovascular care.

Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States, with 600,000 people dying annually of heart disease. More than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain. SCPC's goal 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.

"We want people to understand how important it is to know the symptoms of a heart attack and to dial 911 when they begin having those symptoms. Driving yourself, or riding with a loved one, takes time away from treatment," said Charles L. Lucore, M.D., M.B.A., President and CEO of St. John's Hospital. "By dialing 911 first, you will receive treatment in the ambulance and have a nationally recognized heart team waiting for you when you arrive at the hospital."

The Accredited Chest Pain Center at PHI has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and undergoing an onsite review. Key areas in which an Accredited Chest Pain Center must demonstrate expertise include the following:

- 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 the competence and training of Accredited Chest Pain Center personnel
- 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 ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL: St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois is a regional medical center offering a comprehensive array of health care services to Central and Southern Illinois. Founded in 1875, St. John's is the flagship hospital of Hospital Sisters Health System and is home to the Prairie Heart Institute, St. John's Children's Hospital, St. John's Women's Services, St. John's Neurosciences Institute, St. John's Cancer Institute, Center for Living, Orthopedic Services and AthletiCare. St. John's now has one of the most advanced Surgery Centers in the nation and a renovated patient tower to offer all private rooms. St. John's is designated as a Level I Trauma Center on a yearly rotating basis, has its own College of Nursing and is a teaching hospital for the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. For more information about St. John's Hospital, visit www.st-johns.org

ABOUT HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM: Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy, at each of its 13 Local Systems in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and in Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit www.hshs.org.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR PATIENT CARE: The Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (SCPC) is an international not-for-profit organization that 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 1-877-271-4176.