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ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL HONORED WITH MISSION: LIFELINE QUALITY ACHIEVEMENT GOLD AWARD

SPRINGFIELD, IL – St. John's Prairie Heart Institute recently received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline Gold Performance Achievement Award for the fourth straight year. The award recognizes St. John's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of care for heart attack patients that effectively improves the survival and care of STEMI (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction) patients. St. John's is the only hospital south of I80 to receive the gold award, and one of two hospitals in Illinois to be recognized.

Every year, almost 250,000 people experience the STEMI type of heart attack – the deadliest type. Unfortunately, a significant number don't receive prompt reperfusion therapy, which is critical in restoring blood flow. Mission: Lifeline seeks to save lives by closing the gaps that separate STEMI patients from timely access to appropriate treatments. Mission: Lifeline is focusing on improving the system of care for these patients and at the same time improving care for all heart attack patients.

Hospitals involved in Mission: Lifeline strive to improve care in both acute treatment measures and discharge measures. Systems of care are developed that close the gap of timely access to appropriate, life-saving treatments. Before they are discharged, patients are started on aggressive risk reduction therapies such as cholesterol-lowering drugs, aspirin, ACE inhibitors and beta-blockers in the hospital and receive smoking cessation counseling.

To earn the Mission: Lifeline Gold Performance Achievement Award, hospitals must demonstrate for 24 consecutive months that at least 85 percent of eligible STEMI patients (without contraindications) are treated within specific time frames upon entering the hospital and discharged following the American Heart Association's recommended treatment guidelines.

“St. John's Hospital is dedicated to making Prairie Heart Institute among the best cardiac care units in the country, and the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program is helping us accomplish that by making it easier for our professionals to improve the outcomes of our cardiac patients,” said Charles L. Lucore, M.D., M.B.A., President and CEO of St. John's Hospital. “We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in cardiac care.”

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ABOUT MISSION: LIFELINE: The American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline program helps hospitals and emergency medical services develop systems of care that follow proven standards and procedures for STEMI patients. The program works by mobilizing teams across the continuum of care to implement American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology clinical treatment guidelines. For more information, visit heart.org/missionlifeline. and heart.org/quality.

ABOUT ST. JOHN'S PRAIRIE HEART INSTITUTE: Prairie Heart Institute at St. John's Hospital is one of the largest heart programs in Illinois. We have developed a reputation as one of the premier cardiovascular programs in the country, but it's our dedication to providing compassionate care to patients and their families that makes us unique. Prairie Heart Institute was founded in 1994 when Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants, Ltd and St. John's Hospital formalized their already strong partnership.