AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center Earns Chest Pain Center Accreditation for Meeting, Exceeding National Treatment Guidelines

"The Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC) recently recognized AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's (ARMC) Mainland and City campuses with full Cycle III accreditation as Chest Pain centers. Both campuses earned full Cycle II accreditation in 2007 and Cycle I accreditation in 2004, becoming the 59th and 60th accredited Chest Pain centers in the nation. Cycle III accreditation is an advanced accreditation that recognizes hospitals for meeting stringent guidelines and protocols in the care of patients with chest pain.

In addition to its full Cycle III accreditation, ARMC Mainland Campus, where the Heart Institute at ARMC is located, was again granted accreditation with percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), also known as angioplasty, because it can perform these procedures 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The added PCI accreditation shows ARMC Mainland Campus meets American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology guidelines for providing primary PCIs. Primary PCIs are those done in emergency situations to treat certain heart attacks by restoring blood flow to the heart muscle, ideally within 90 minutes of the patient's arrival at the hospital.

"The reaccreditation of ARMC's Chest Pain centers is a testament to the commitment of ARMC staff and leadership to providing our community with quality care," said Thomas Brabson, DO, vice chairman, Emergency Services, ARMC. "Chest pain can signal a heart attack or other serious health problem. Prompt diagnosis and treatment can make a critical difference in a patient's health and wellbeing. We have the technology and expertise. What is most important is that anyone experiencing chest pain dial 9-1-1 immediately."

ARMC's protocol-driven and systematic approach to patient management allows nurses, physicians and other clinical staff to reduce time to treatment during the critical early stages of a heart attack, when treatment is most effective, and to better monitor patients when it is not clear whether they are having a coronary event.

The Chest Pain Centers at ARMC Mainland and City campuses demonstrated the hospital team's expertise and commitment to quality patient care in meeting or exceeding a stringent criteria, including, but not limited to:

- Integrating the Emergency Department with local emergency medical system
- Assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients quickly
- Effectively treating patients who have a low risk for acute coronary 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.

"ARMC's team continually focuses on enhancing the quality, safety and efficiency of care," said Howard Levite, MD, MBA, medical director of the Heart Institute at ARMC and of ARMC's Catheterization Laboratories. "ARMC's Chest Pain accreditation is a result of many departments collaborating to ensure we meet or surpass national guidelines and protocols for treatment of chest pain. From Registration to Pharmacy to Radiology and Laboratory, treating chest pain is a team effort."

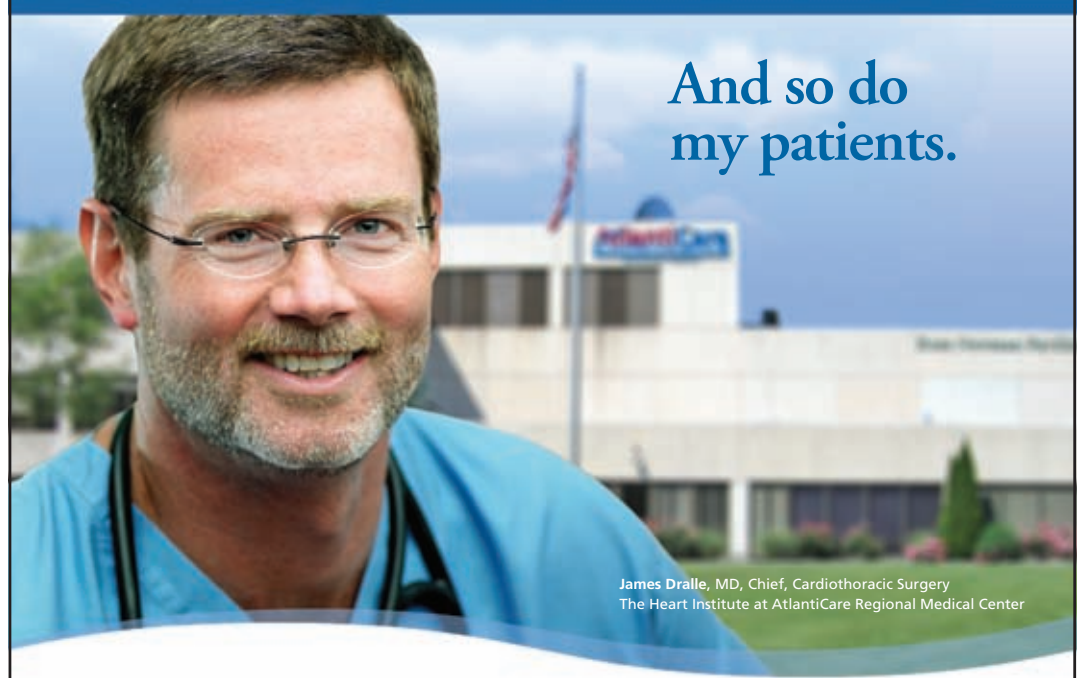
When it comes to a heart attack, time is muscle. Dial 9-1-1 for chest pain and other symptoms of a heart attack, including chest discomfort that lasts more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back. It might feel like pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain. Experiencing extreme fatigue; shortness of breath; discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, or jaw; a feeling of indigestion or upset stomach are all symptoms. Symptoms can also include breaking into a cold sweat and being nauseous or lightheaded. Many patients who experienced heart attack also said they just didn't feel right.

For more information about the Heart Institute at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, AtlantiCare's free Matters of the Heart seminars and screenings or other AtlantiCare programs and services, call the AtlantiCare Access Center at 1-888-569-1000 or visit www.atlanticare.org.

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 maladiesFor more information on the Society of Chest Pain Centers visit www.scpcp.org.

The President recognizes us for quality excellence.



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— *Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States*

Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award

Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Recipient

Local cardiac surgery patients don't have to go far to put their hearts in good hands. The most recent state report* identifies AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center as the only hospital in the region certified in heart surgery with one of the lowest mortality rates. Great results for our patients–that's one reason we earned the Baldrige Award...and our patients' heartfelt trust, the greatest reward of all.

*"Cardiac Surgery in New Jersey 2007", a healthcare quality assessment, released by the state Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award 2009 Award Recipient

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