

For Immediate Release

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## ***The Heart Hospital at Providence Receives Chest Pain Center Accreditation with PCI***



***The Heart Hospital at Providence, Waco, Texas*** received full accreditation with Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) from the Society of Chest Pain Centers (SCPC) on November 1, 2011. This means that Providence's patient care procedures exceed the rigid standards set by SCPC to ensure that patients get the treatment they need during the critical early stages of a heart attack when the heart muscle can be preserved.

By becoming an Accredited Chest Pain Center, the Heart Hospital at Providence has enhanced the quality of care for patients. "As an accredited Chest Pain Center, we use the very latest medical techniques in heart care to minimize or eliminate damage following a cardiac event," said **Dr. Sherwin Attai**, Chest Pain Center Medical Director. "This recognition is emblematic of our commitment to diagnose, treat, and return our patients to their normal daily activities as soon as possible."

This accreditation is exceptionally meaningful according to **Rita Kuehl**, Coordinator of the Chest Pain Center. "We are thrilled to receive this accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. For our staff, it's an important recognition. For our patients, it's an extraordinary recommendation."

**Kent Keahey**, President and CEO, Providence Healthcare Network, added: "Compassion and excellence have always been our watchwords at Providence. This outstanding recognition from the Society of Chest Pain Centers is a timely reminder to the Waco community that these are more than just words – they are the values that we adhere to on a daily basis."

### **Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States.**

600,000 people die each year of heart disease and more than five million Americans with chest pain visit hospitals. Many of those people access the Emergency Room. "This is an outstanding

accomplishment for our hospital as well as an excellent asset to the community,” said **Eileen Bohannon**, Director of Emergency Services at Providence. “It’s a great example of the high level of competence and commitment Providence Health Center staff demonstrates in serving our patients. We’re very pleased to receive this important recognition from the SCPC.”

With the increase in chest pain centers came the need to establish standards designed to improve the consistency and quality of care provided to patients. SCPC’s accreditation process ensures that centers meet or exceed quality-of-care measures in acute cardiac medicine. **Debbie Kucera**, RN, Director of Cardiology said these standards are in evidence at Providence. “Here at the Heart Hospital at Providence, we work toward a common goal of putting every patient first, not simply to extend life, but to ensure the quality of life. We accomplish this by providing each patient with personalized compassionate care and are pleased to be recognized for achieving these goals.”

The Accredited Chest Pain Center at Providence 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 by a team of SPCP’s accreditation review specialists.

**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

These key areas demonstrate both the compassion and the excellence of the Chest Pain Center. “The Heart Hospital at Providence has always been more than just a place to come to see a physician,” said **Annette Ayers**, Chief Nursing Officer. “It’s always been a caring institution, dedicated to the lives of our patients and their families. We thank the SCPC for this honor.”

Chest Pain Accreditation for the Heart Hospital at Providence is effective as of November 1, 2011 and continues for a period of three years.

**About the Heart Hospital at Providence.** Known as “a hospital within a hospital,” The Heart Hospital at Providence was founded more than 30 years ago. In 2007, the Heart Hospital was dedicated as the F.M. and Gloria Young Tower. Known to many simply as “The Heart Hospital,” this outstanding facility has a proud history of being first in heart health in the Waco area. The physicians, surgeons, nurses and other healthcare professionals of the Heart Hospital are dedicated to providing the highest level of patient care utilizing superior technology and

tempered with compassion. To achieve this goal, the hospital has developed areas of expertise that combine research, education, and clinical practices to provide innovative and scientifically based testing and treatments for heart, vascular and thoracic disease.

**For more information on the Heart Hospital at Providence, contact:**

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**About the Society of Chest Pain Centers:** The Society of Chest Pain Centers (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](http://www.scpcp.org), or call toll free 1-877-271-4176.

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***About Providence Healthcare Network***

*Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spiritually centered, holistic care, which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities. We are advocates for a compassionate and just society through our actions and our words.*

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A mission of **compassion**. A vision of **excellence**.