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Delray Medical Center qualifies for American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline Recognition for heart attack care

DELRAY BEACH, FL. JULY, 2011 — Delray Medical Center recently qualified for the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline Bronze Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes Delray Medical Center'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.

Every year, almost 250,000 people experience the STEMI type of heart attack. 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, appropriate 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.

Hospitals that receive the Mission: Lifeline Bronze Performance Achievement Award have demonstrated for 90 consecutive days 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.

"Delray Medical Center is dedicated to making our cardiac unit among the best 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 Chief Executive Officer of Delray Medical Center Mark Bryan. "We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in cardiac care."

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About Delray Medical Center

For more than 25 years, Delray Medical Center, a 493-bed acute care hospital, has served the communities of South Palm Beach County. As both a community hospital and Level II Trauma Center located on a 42-acre medical plaza, Delray Medical Center has the ability to offer several specialized services including Cardiac Care, Orthopedics, Rehabilitation, Neurosciences, Emergency/Trauma Care, Behavioral Health, and more.

For the past five years, Delray Medical Center has been named one of America's 50 Best Hospitals by HealthGrades, a leading independent healthcare ratings organization. Delray Medical Center is one of only 269 hospitals ranked in the top 5% in the nation for patient outcomes according to HealthGrades, achieving the HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence Award™. Delray Medical Center was one of just 13 hospitals in South Florida- and one of five in Palm Beach County- that received this recognition for its clinical performance.

Several specialized services lines have also earned high achievements. Delray Medical Center's designation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) confirms that the hospital's care programs follow national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve the outcomes for stroke patients. This designation followed Delray Medical Center's accreditation by the Joint Commission as a Primary Stroke Center.

For its orthopedics, Delray Medical Center is a Blue Distinction Center for Spine Surgery and Knee and Hip Replacement by Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Delray Medical Center's cardiovascular care has also been the recipient of several awards. The hospital was featured in a special advertisement in the "America's Best Hospitals" 2010 issue of US News & World Report to commemorate their receipt of the *Get With the Guidelines* Coronary Artery Disease GOLD Award, GOLD Heart Failure Award, and GOLD Plus Stroke Award. In addition, Delray Medical Center was recently named one of America's "Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospitals" by a Thomson Reuters. Selected from more than 1,000 U.S. hospitals, Delray Medical Center was chosen based on its record of providing high-quality and effective cardiovascular care.

Delray Medical Center is actively involved in community outreach, sponsoring many events, community lectures and fundraisers. The hospital is also a smoke free campus. For more information or a physician referral, please call 1-800-897-9789 or visit the website at www.delraymedicalctr.com

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.

