



Saint Mary's

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NEWS RELEASE

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Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center Becomes First Hospital in Nevada to Receive Accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers

RENO, Nev. Nov. 17, 2009 – Saint Mary's Center for Cardiac Care has received Chest Pain Center (CPC) accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers, the first accreditation of its kind in Nevada. The CPC at Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by exceeding a set of rigorous criteria and completing on-site evaluations.

Saint Mary's Chest Pain Center, which is a part of the center for cardiac care, has demonstrated an ability to effectively treat patients with low risk acute coronary syndrome, continually improve processes and procedures, maintain a functional program that promotes optimal patient care and support community outreach programs, amongst others.

"Saint Mary's is committed to providing northern Nevada with the highest quality of patient care and to be recognized by the Society of Chest Pain Centers as Nevada's first and only accredited chest pain center is a testament to the level of quality that Saint Mary's provides," said Mike Uboldi, president and CEO of Saint Mary's. "This accreditation is also an example of how collaboration among hospitals and REMSA can save patients lives."

For more than a year Saint Mary's and REMSA have worked together to ensure that a patients suffering from heart attacks are fast tracked upon arrival to Saint Mary's Emergency Department, therefore saving precious seconds.

"REMSA and Saint Mary's work together to help ensure that patients who are suffering heart attacks in the field have the best chance of survival when they reach the hospital, together we have been able to provide the community with saving patients lives through our collaboration," said Patrick Smith, president and CEO of REMSA.

The Society for Chest Pain Centers was established in 1998 due to an increased need to improve consistency and quality of care provided to heart disease patients. The society's accreditation process ensures centers meet or exceed quality care measures in acute cardiac medicine.

"Achieving accreditation status is a milestone for healthcare in this region and this distinction signifies Saint Mary's patient-centered and systematic approach to improving the care of the cardiac patient. We

have integrated clinical best practices and innovative care models into our cardiac care processes to ensure better outcomes for patients with chest pain and other cardiac disorders, “said Laura Pinto, cardiovascular service line administrator. “The integrated approach provides timely treatment of patients experiencing chest pain across many care settings--from the community setting with REMSA, to the Saint Mary’s emergency department, the cardiac catheterization lab, to the inpatient hospital units, as well as outpatient services. Being an Accredited Chest Pain Center further demonstrates Saint Mary’s dedication to excellence in quality cardiac care and reflects our commitment to the community we serve”

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and is a major cause of disability. More than 652,000 people die of heart disease in the United States each year. Key areas in which a Chest Pain Center must demonstrate expertise include:

- 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 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

The CPC at Saint Mary’s has focused on significantly reducing the mortality rate of heart disease patients by reducing the time that it takes to receive treatment and increasing the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment.

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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 maladies. Established in 1998, the Society is dedicated to patient advocacy and focusing on ischemic heart disease. Central to its mission is the question, “What is right for the patient?” In answer, the Society promotes protocol based medicine, often delivered through a Chest Pain Center model to address the diagnosis and treatment of acute coronary syndromes, heart failure, and to promote the adoption of process improvement science by healthcare providers. To best fulfill this mission, the Society of Chest Pain Centers provides accreditation to facilities striving for optimum Chest Pain Center care. SCPC is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

About Saint Mary’s

In 2009 Saint Mary’s celebrates 101 years of delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health services to northern Nevada. Founded in 1908 by the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, Saint Mary’s is a member of the Catholic Healthcare West family of hospitals and medical centers in Arizona, California, and Nevada. As a fully integrated, faith-based healthcare system with 380 licensed beds, approximately 2,300 employees, 850 affiliated physicians, and 300 volunteers, Saint Mary’s provides a wide variety of inpatient, outpatient, and community services to go Well Beyond for the community we serve. For more information, please visit www.saintmarysreno.org.

About Catholic Healthcare West

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Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) is the eighth largest hospital system in the nation and the largest not-for-profit hospital provider in California. Founded in 1986, the CHW network of more than 10,000 physicians and approximately 53,000 employees serves a population spanning 22 million people at 41 hospitals across California, Arizona, and Nevada. CHW is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health care services with special attention to the poor and underserved. In 2008, CHW provided \$967 million in charity care, community benefits, and unreimbursed patient care. For more information, please visit our website at www.chwHEALTH.org.