



**St. Elizabeth's Hospital
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From: Kelly Barbeau

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RE: St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Illinois receives Cycle II
Accreditation by the Society of Chest Pain Centers**

Belleville, IL - St. Elizabeth's Hospital's Chest Pain Center has received full Cycle II accreditation with PCI (Percutaneous Coronary Interventions) from the Accreditation Review Committee of the Society of Chest Pain Centers, effective October 2007 and continuing through 2010. Accreditation expires October 7, 2010. St. Elizabeth's Hospital became the first healthcare facility in the St. Louis Metropolitan area and 70th nationwide when it received Cycle I accreditation in October of 2004.

The Chest Pain Center at St. Elizabeth's Hospital has demonstrated its expertise and commitment to quality patient care by meeting or exceeding a wide set of stringent criteria and completing on-site evaluations by a review team from the Society of Chest Pain Centers. 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.

“By achieving this level of accreditation, St. Elizabeth’s is signifying to its patients, that we will continue to provide the very best cardiac care that any hospital nationwide can offer. Re-accreditation at the Cycle II level brought even more stringent and demanding criteria than that in 2004,” said Sue Beeler, RN, BSN, Manager of the Heart and Vascular Center. “We are excited to be able to produce some of the very best cardiac patient outcomes of any hospital in the St. Louis area. Cycle II accreditation demonstrates our commitment to excellence in providing cardiac care”

Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States, with 600,000 dying annually of heart disease. More than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain. The goal of the Society of Chest Pain Centers is to significantly reduce the mortality rate of these patients by teaching the public to recognize and react to the early symptoms of a possible heart attack, reduce the time that it takes to receive treatment, and increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatment.

The Chest Pain Center’s protocol driven and systematic approach to patient management allows physicians to reduce time to treatment during the critical early stages of a heart attack, when treatments are most effective, and to better monitor patients when it is not clear whether they are having a coronary event. Such observation helps ensure that a patient is neither sent home too early nor needlessly admitted.

With the rise of Chest Pain Centers came the need to establish standards designed to improve the consistency and quality of care provided to patients. The Society’s accreditation process insures centers meet or exceed quality-of-care measures in acute cardiac medicine.

About St. Elizabeth’s Hospital St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, in Belleville, IL, maintains a Gold Seal of approval from the Joint Commission. The hospital was founded by the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in 1875. Today, we continue their mission: to provide care for

the sick and needy with a spirit of respect, care, competence and joy. For more information please contact Kelly Barbeau at 618.234.2120, extension 1270.

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

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